THE HISTORY OF THE CHEVALIER BAYARD.

BY THE REV. JOSEPH STERLING.

PER MOLTI CHIARI GESTI ERA FAMOSO,
E DI SUA FAMA TUTTO IL MONDO EMPIA.

ARIOSTO.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR GEORGE ROBINSON,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

MDCCLXXXI.

CHARLES CLARK,
TOTHAM,
1868] ESSEX.

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY

FREDERICK

EARL OF CARLISLE,

VISCOUNT MORPETH, &c.

LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL

OF THE

KINGDOM OF I[illegible]LAND,

AND

KNIGHT

OF THE MOST ANTIENT ORDER

OF THE THISTLE.

SONNET.

BAYARD, whoſe mem'ry virtue's tears embalm,
Muſt high-born HOWARD's kind indulgence claim;
In glory's field he won the knightly palm,
Applauding nations ſeal the heroes' fame,
Nor e'er ſhall dark oblivion blot his name;
Th' hiſtoric muſe ſhall blazon his renown,
Bright ſhall it ſhine—an unextinguiſhed flame,
Unfading lawrels ſhall the warrior crown,
Without a cloud his radiant ſun went down:
Great was his courage in his country's cauſe,
The plume of war—he fear'd no hoſtile frown,
His ſword maintain'd fair honor's ſtricteſt laws:
Such BAYARD was, and ſuch, would CARLISLE be,
Were this the age of arms, and chivalry.

A DISSERTATION ON CHIVALRY.

CHIVALRY, like all other inſtitutions, has had its infancy, its height of ſplendor, and its decline: It has met with both applauſe, and cenſure; thoſe who have been charmed with the hoſpitality which was diſplayed in the hall of the Baron, or who have been fired by the deeds of proweſs, which were atchieved in the Tiltyard, ſpeak of it with all the warmth of enthuſiaſtic fondneſs; others, who are attached only to the manners and refinements of modern times, look upon it as one of the productions of Gothic barbariſm: and

treat it, with ridicule and contempt. Theſe latter ſeem, however, to have forgotten that æra, when the Britiſh arms ſhone with the moſt diſtinguiſhed luſtre, when the name of Edward the IIId. and his gallant ſon was pronounced with fear and reſpect. It was the romantic ſpirit of Chivalry that conquered at Creſſy and Poitiers, and it was the ſame ſpirit, aided by the valour and conduct of Du Gueſclin, that enabled Charles the Vth. to retrieve his ſinking fortunes: when the Edwards were no more, and the Engliſh ſceptre was ſwayed by a feeble hand *.

To this inſtitution, we are indebted for our Cœur de Lion: whoſe valour, awed the Sultans of the Eaſt. The virtues of the Conſtable Du Gueſclin, of the Chevalier Bayard, and of the incomparable Sir Philip Sidney, have flowed from the ſame ſource.

* Richard the IId.

As

As an enquiry into the eſſentials of Chivalry, may illuſtrate ſome paſſages in the following work; I ſhall therefore in as conciſe a manner as poſſible, endeavour to draw the principal traits of that excentric, though uſeful eſtabliſhment. The excellent Curne * de St. Palaye, and the authors whom he quotes, ſhall be my guides in thoſe reſearches.

—THOSE, who were deſigned for the profeſſion of arms were taken at the age of ſeven years from the nurſery, and the care of their education was committed to men; ſo that from their earlieſt youth, they were familiarized to military ideas. The courts of ſovereign princes were then the ſchools, where the young nobleſſe was trained in the ſcience of Chivalry; they were always open to receive thoſe, whoſe parents, by the ſcantineſs of their fortunes, were prevented from having them

* Memoires de l'ancienne Chevalerie, comme une ſcience & etabliſſement militaire.

inſtructed in a manner ſuitable to their birth. It was not diſhonourable in thoſe times to be entertained in the ſervice of the prince, or one of the great barons. The dependent ſeemed to derive luſtre from his chieftain, whilſt the chieftain prided himſelf in the number of his dependants.

THEIR firſt employment was that of *Page*, *Varlet*, or *Damaſon*, (terms which have been ſometimes applied to ſquires.) The domeſtics of an inferior order were called *groſs Varlets*, though they frequently had but one common appellation of *Pages*, *Garçons*, and *Varlets*. The buſineſs of the page was to attend his maſter and miſtreſs, to wait on them to the chace, or when they went abroad, and even to ſerve them at table. The firſt leſſon that he was taught, after his devotion to God, was to love the ladies, ſo that his reverence for religion was blended with a moſt reſpectful complaiſance for the fair ſex.

BEFORE

BEFORE the youth could paſs from the condition of a page to that of an eſquire, he was to perform a ſpecies of ceremony, which had been introduced and ſanctified by religion; the intent of it was, to ſhew him the uſe he ſhould make of his ſword, which was now for the firſt time to be given into his hands. He was preſented before the altar by his father and mother, each having a wax taper in their hands for an offering. The prieſt, who celebrated maſs, then took down a ſword, which hung over the altar, and after having ſaid ſeveral benedictions over it, girded it on the young gentleman.

To deſcribe obſelete cuſtoms is often attended with pleaſure and utilty, it throws a light upon the hiſtory of the dark ages; it gives us a ſtriking picture of what our forefathers were.

THE court of the prince, and the caſtle of the baron, were the ſchools where courteſy, politeneſs, and every virtue flouriſhed

flouriſhed. If the page and the eſquire were inſtructed in thoſe arts, which were to be productive of military renown, the young ladies were likewiſe taught all thoſe elegant accompliſhments, which conſtitute the courtly damſel; thoſe nameleſs graces, thoſe refined ſentiments for which they ſeem to have been peculiarly formed by nature, were cultivated and improved with an aſſiduous hand. They received, with the utmoſt courteſy, the errant knight, who arrived at the caſtle; they diſarmed him, when he returned from the combat, they waſhed away the blood and duſt with which he was covered, and ſerved up the banquet for him in the hall.

FOURTEEN, was the age appointed for attaining to the condition of an eſquire, his buſineſs was to carve and ſerve at table, to dreſs and arm his maſter, to carry his helmet and his lance, to attend his horſes, and to keep his armour clean, and brightly poliſhed. It was almoſt an invariable rule, that a knight ſhould put

put his ſon, under the tuition of ſome other knight; leſt the too indulgent eye of the fond parent ſhould overlook ſome of thoſe punctilios of duty, which were to be ſo rigorouſly obſerved.

THE age of twenty-one was the preſcribed time for receiving the order of knighthood; this rule, however, was not always obſerved: the princes of the blood, in France, were knights from their birth, and others deſirous to be inveſted with the order, have received it before they were of the age, which the law required, when it was judged that their merit had rendered them ſufficiently old and ripe for that honour. We read, that when Bayard paſſed by Moulins, he paid a viſit to the famous duke of Bourbon, who received him with the utmoſt condeſcenſion and politeneſs, and requeſted that he would knight his eldeſt ſon, who was ſtill in the cradle. It will be, ſaid he, the higheſt honour that can be conferred on him, it will be the moſt aſſured omen of

of his future fortune, to receive the order of knighthood, from the hand of the Chevalier Bayard. His requeſt was complied with. It is perhaps worth remarking, that the minority of thoſe who were not noble, and who were deſtined for menial employments, terminated at fourteen, while the minority of the nobles, who were to bear arms, extended to twenty-one. For a greater length of time was judged requiſite to brandiſh the ſword and the ſpear, than to handle the hatchet or direct the plough.

He, who was to be inveſted with the order of knighthood, after many ſevere faſts, and nights ſpent in prayer, entered the church, and advanced towards the altar with his ſword hanging in a ſcarf from his neck. He then preſented it to the officiating prieſt, who bleſſing it, returned it to him. The novice, then in a plain dreſs, with his hands joined, kneeled down at the feet of him or her, who was to arm him. This was done either in a church

church or hall, or in the court-yard of a palace or caſtle, and often in an open field.

THE knight, to whom the novice preſented himſelf, demanded, for what purpoſe he wiſhed to receive the order, whether, it was for the maintenance and honour of religion and chivalry. The novice making a ſuitable anſwer, the knight after have received his oath, conſented to comply with his requeſt. Then he was armed with the hawberk, the cuiraſs, the braſſets, the gauntlets, the ſpurs, and finally, with the ſword. Being thus *dubbed*, the knight then gave him the *accolade*, (three ſtrokes with the flat of his naked ſword upon the ſhoulder) after which he pronounced the following words: "In the name of God, St. Michael, "and St. George, I make you a knight, "be *valiant*, *hardy*, and *loyal*. But as in time of war, a great number of knights, was uſually made, therefore the ceremony was conſiderably abridged, the ſword was preſented

preſented by the croſs or guard to the general, who gave only the *accolade*. Among his other engagements, the new-made knight promiſed at the peril of his life, to maintain the cauſe of the widow and the orphan, never to traduce the ladies, nor ſuffer any perſon in his preſence to ſpeak diſreſpectfully of them.

BEFORE a tournament, the coats of armour of the knights were hung up for the inſpection of the lords, the ladies, and the damſels. Meantime, an herald announced aloud the name of the cavalier to whom each coat of armour belonged, that, if he had injured any lady or damſel, he ſhould make an acknowledgment for the offence, before he was permitted to enter the liſts. And each knight who intended to jouſt with him, who was to maintain the field, was to ſtrike his coat of armour before the combat, and to give in his name.

THE

THE day which preceded the tournament, was often ſolemnized by jouſts, which were called eſſays or proofs, and alſo the veſpers of the tournament; the ſquires had lances, which were eaſily carried, readily broken, and not very dangerous to thoſe whom they might wound. They, who eminently ſignalized themſelves on this occaſion, were generally inveſted with the order of knighthood, that temple of honour, (to uſe the fanciful language of the age,) which was the glittering prize, that made every youthful breaſt beat high, and taught the aſpiring warrior to triumph over every danger.

THE heralds on the day of the tournament, advertiſed the young nobleſſe, what they owed to the luſtre of their anceſtry. Remember, ſaid they, to each cavalier, that you are the ſon of your father, and not of a degenerate ſtock. The flouriſh of the trumpets proclaimed aloud the arrival of the knights, who were

were armed in the moſt pompous manner, and attended by their ſquires on horſe-back. As the knights were ſtiled the ſervants of the ladies, in which title they they ſeemed to take a peculiar pride, ſo were they often led by them in chains into the liſts, this emblematically repreſenting the abſolute dominion that they had over them. The knights we find, were ſtiled ſervants of love in an old ballad compoſed by Euſtace Deſchamps on a tournameut, which was held at St. Deny's, by Charles the Sixth, about the year thirteen hundred and eighty-nine.

Servants d'amour regardez doucement
Aux echeffaults anges de Paradis
Lors jouterez fort, & joyeuſement,
Et vous ſerez honerés, & cheris.

THE knight before he entered the tournament was preſented by his miſtreſs with a favour, which was commonly a ſcarf, or bracelet, or ſome detached piece of her dreſs, and this was uſually placed on his helmet,

helmet, or his ſhield. The rules of the tournament, which is ſo juſtly ſtiled the ſchool of proweſs in the old romance of Perceforeſt, were firſt, not to uſe the point, but the edge of the ſword; ſecondly, that the knight ſhould not fight out of his rank, nor wound the horſe of his adverſary; thirdly, that he ſhould not ſtrike with his lance on the vizer of the helmet; fourthly, that he ſhould not ſtrike his opponent after he had lifted up his ventail.

THE ſubſequent articles were agreed to and obſerved at the firſt tourament that was held in Germany, in the year nine hundred and thirty eight, at the city of Magdeburg, by Henry the Fowler.

I. THAT in following time, a cuſtom ſhould be obſerved and kept in Germany, and the countries thereto belonging, from three years to three years, (at the leaſt) to celebrate jouſts and tourneys for exerciſe, and to know the nobility reſorting to them. That all princes, Lords, Barons, and

and Gentlemen of noble extraction, being well armed and honourably accoutred, ſhould be welcome to them. From theſe tourneys were to be excluded, all ſuch as could be detected of blaſpheming the ſacred name of God, the moſt Holy Trinity, and the Chriſtian Catholic Religion. If any ſuch perſons (ſtanding upon the nobility of their extraction) durſt be ſo bold as to preſent themſelves in this aſſembly: we ordain, will, and it is our pleaſure; that they ſhould be diſmounted, and deprived of their horſes, and lances. And as a note of infamy for ever after, ſo long as the tourney ſhall endure, ſuch a man muſt ride upon the bars, or rails, as a man expoſed to the ſcorn of the whole aſſembly.

II. WHATSOEVER perſon of the nobility, that ſhall (adviſedly and wilfully) ſpeak evil of the emperor's perſon, blame or contemn his ordinances and commands, and reſiſt them in deed or word, he ſhall be ignominiouſly expulſed from the tourney, loſe his horſe and ride the rails.

III. ANY

III. ANY man of the nobility, that ſhall outrage, or abuſe (by word or deed) the honour of a wife, maid, or widow, and ſhall poſſeſs himſelf (by force and violence) of their goods and poſſeſſions, or ſhall give aid and help, to ſuch as ſhall ſo wrong and abuſe them: he ſhall looſe his horſe and ride the rails.

IV. FROM theſe tourneys are likewiſe excluded all gentlemen, attainted and convicted of crimes, either of falſhood, perjury, or breach of faith. Whoſoever being ſuch an offender, ſhall dare to preſent himſelf within the liſts: it is the loſs of his horſe, and riding the rails.

V. WHOSOEVER hath betrayed his lord, and by fraud or craft hath forſaken him, either in going, being there, or returning from war, or elſe hath perſuaded his lords ſervants to do ſo: whoſoever hath not aſſiſted and defended his fellow citizen, his ſervants or other perſons (that did put themſelves into his ſafeguard and protection) from

from all injuſtice and violence, but hath councelled and procured the contrary, and by fear and cowardice, by intelligence and wicked practice, left and forſook them, when he ought and might have protected him or them: for ever he is to be excluded from jouſts and tourneys: but if he dare preſume to preſent himſelf at any; as a manifeſt note of ſhame and infamy, he muſt loſe his horſe, and ride the rails.

VI. WHOSOEVER ſhall have procured the death of his wife, or practiſed and given conſent thereto. Whoſoever alſo hath favoured, given council, or lodged the murderers of his ſovereign lord, either before, or after his death. He ſhall (to all perpetuity) ſtand baniſhed from theſe tourneys, with the loſs of his horſe, and riding the rails inſtead thereof.

VII. WHOSOEVER hath perpetrated or committed ſacrilege, and diſpoiled ſanctified places of their goods and riches: or hath uſurped by force and violence, thoſe belonging

ing to widows, and orphans, without making reſtitution (vices, which ought to be reproved and puniſhed above any other, eſpecially in a gentleman of honour,) he is to be expulſed from theſe jouſts, after he hath loſt his horſe, and ridden the rails.

VIII. WHOSOEVER ſhall ſurprize his enemy by treaſon, either before he hath challenged him, or after, and ſhall purſue him in any other ſort, than as is allowed by the laws of war; burning his houſes and granges, tearing up his vines and corn, by means whereof, dearth of theſe fruits of the earth, may bring hurt and damage to the commonwealth. Whoſoever alſo, either by himſelf, or ſome other by his intelligence, ſhall lye thieviſhly lurking, and waiting on the high ways for him: all theſe having loſt their horſes, ſhall ride the rails.

IX. WHOSOEVER ſhall oppreſs his ſubjects or ſervants with novel impoſitions,

taxes and ſubſidies, either by land or water (without knowledge and permiſſion of his chief ſovereign lord) for augmenting and encreaſing his own private demeſnes: and whoſoever in the lands and marches under his government, ſhall impoſe any taxation upon foreign commodities, by means whereof, ſtrangers ſhall be robbed and ill entreated, and traffic and commerce hindred: he ſhall have his horſe taken from him, and ride the rails.

X. WHOSOEVER (being married) ſhall be convicted of adultery: if he be a widower, and ſhall maintain a married wife, a religious ſiſter, or a devout woman: if he ſhall be a meſſenger to the low countries of women, or of devoted ſiſters, and nuns, or ſhall have forcibly taken them for his uſe: let him be baniſhed for ever from the noble aſſembly of jouſts, and tourneys, deprived of his horſe, and ſent away in a ſhirt of mail, or ſet to ride on a wooden hobby horſe.

XI. IF

XI. If any one of noble extraction, being not ſatisfied with ſuch goods, as came to him by birth, kindred and inheritance, or otherwiſe won and conquered, or by wages and penſions from his prince; but ſhall make himſelf a farmer of goods, fruits, or commodities of any other, under borrowed names, becauſe he dare not himſelf avouch it: He is for ever to be baniſhed from this noble aſſembly of jouſts and tourneys. But if his boldneſs maketh him to preſume thither and is ſeen there; let him looſe his horſe and ride the rails.

XII. If any man ſhall preſent himſelf at a jouſt or tourney, under ſhadow and pretence, that he hath been enabled by his prince, and therefore preſumeth to march equal, and as a peer with them of antient nobility, and cannot be juſtified by his own birth in the fourth degree, by the father's ſtock, or by the mother's ſide at the leaſt. Such a gentleman of the firſt edition, ought to be beaten with rods,

and ſwitches, his horſe taken from him, and he to ride the rails. *

After the prize was determined, the heralds ſelected from the ladies, her who was to preſent it to the knight. The kiſs which he took from the fair one, on receiving this ſeal of his glory, crowned his triumph. Amid the acclamations of the people, he was then conducted to the palace, diſarmed by the damſels, and arrayed in ſumptuous apparel.

In the ſeventh year of Louis le Jeune, a famous tournament was held at Mount Saint Michael in Normandy between the Engliſh and Normans, the former were headed by Geoffry Plantagenet, who was married to the empreſs Matilda, daughter of Henry the firſt of England, and the latter by the earl of Flanders, Theobald count of Blois, and Stephen earl of Mor-

* See the tranſlation of Favine's theatre of honour. Folio edition London, 1623.

taigne,

taigne, who was afterwards king of England. As a particular account of this tournament may be entertaining to ſeveral readers, and as the genius and ſpirit of the times is ſtrongly marked by the ſtile of the author, I ſhall therefore ſet it down at full length in his own words.

—*Sublimato* patre ejus *Fulcone* in Hieroſolymitanum regem. Conſul *Galfredus* armorum exercitus, & laudis adepiſcendæ operam dedit. Nonnullo tempore elapſo in arena a montis Planicie a Britonibus & Normannis *Tornamenti dies aſſignata eſt.* Conveniunt ad Normannorum partis ſubſidia dominus comes Flandrenſis. Theobaudus comes Bleſenſis, & frater ejus Stephanus Mauritaniæ Dominus. Hi tres Henrici regis Anglorum erant nepotes, convenit et ipſe conſul cum ſuis, eorum multitudini numerum accreſcens.

STABANT ex adverſo Britannorum acies armis quidem & animis ſtrenuæ, ſed numero pauciores. Videns, itaque conſul Andegavenſis Galfredus Britannicæ cohortis

tis imparem congreſſum, avulſus a multitudine, ad paucos ſe contulit, ipſis opem laturus, fit congreſſus, commiſcentur acies, fit multus armorum ſtrepitus, ſonant litui, turbæ multiplicis varia vox intonat, dant dextrales diſſonos hinnitus, a clypeis aureis ſole relucentibus, mons ipſe Michaeliticus reſplenduit. Animantur viri ad certamen, franguntur haſtæ fraxiniæ, emutilantur enſes, jam pede pes teritur, umbone repellitur umbo, evacuantur ſellæ, ſupinantur equites, equi dejectis ſeſſoribus ſuis, ruptis habenis hinniendo vagantur. Partis adverſæ ſingularis terror, Galfredus adverſarios impetit, huc, atque illuc diſcurrens ſubvenire ſatigit, lanceâ multos dejicit, enſe ictus ingeminans innumeros vita expellit. Sequuntur Britones ſpem victoriæ ducem, prævium, varia mortium genera adverſariis inferentes. Inſtat Andegavenſis leone ferocior, inſtat Phalanx Britannica jam de victoria præſumens. Normanni ſiquidem immenſo certamine fatigati, terga dantes, fugam arripiunt, et multitudo a paucis confecta, ad caſtra repedare compellitur.

pellitur. Normanni vero confuſione in opinata dejecti, *ſingulare certamen Britonibus proponunt.*

A tranſmarinis namque partibus tourneamenti famâ ducente, miles Sanſonicus gigantæ magnitudinis advenerat. In cujus viribus et audaciâ confidentes, de victoria proſumebant. De caſtris igitur Normannorum homo ille humanitatis excedens metas progrediens, ſtans in loco eminentiori, agminibus Britonum improperans provocat eos, ut quilibet eorum *ſingulari congreſſu* cum ipſo decertaret.

Expalluit vultus audientium, et fortium robur emarcuit: quippe verebantur ſinguli cum tantæ enormitatis bellua *ſingulare* inire *certamen*, intuens vero gener regis magnanimos a naturâ viros ad inuſitationis invitæ vocem, tanquam everves, et ejulatos diſſolvi ſpiritu, et objecti impatiens improperii, proſiliit in equum, arma corripit, et ſpectantibus undequaque catervis *ſingularem cum gigante inivit congreſſum*

greſſum. Fit altercatio dura, vir etenim ille humanæ virtutis modum excedens, lanceam quaſi licitatorium habens, Andegavenſem impetit, et ejus gentum et loricam non ſine ſanguinis effuſione perforat. Stat Andegavenſis tanquam equo radicatus immobilis, et impetitorem ſuum lanceâ tranſverberans, dejicit, et dijecto de ſuperſtans, enſe caput abſcidit. Equum vero victi, victrici manu deducens cum Normannorum ignominia, et ſuorum gloria Trophæo potitus, glorioſus victor abſcedit. *

MODESTY was a virtue inſeparable from the accompliſhed cavalier.

Un chevalier, n'en doutez pas,
Doit ferir haut, et parler bas.

HE did not ſeem to exalt over his vanquiſhed antagoniſt, but endeavoured to ſooth and mitigate his affliction: he wiſhed rather to impute his ſucceſs to the

* Vita Galfredi Andegavenſis per Johannem monachum majoris monaſterii.

ſmiles

ſmiles of fortune, than to the ſuperior proweſs of his arm.

THE amuſements of the knights after the tournament, were not unmanly relaxations; they were calculated to keep up a martial ſpirit in a brave and generous nobility. The knights and ladies played together at cheſs, which game may be conſidered as an accurate repreſentation of the art of war. The fair damſel heightened the courage of her lover by eulogiums upon thoſe, who behaved honourably in the field, thus prompting him to deeds of danger and chivalrous enterprize.

Qui bien et mal ne peut ſouffrir,
A gran honneur ne peut venir.

THE principal deſign of inſtituting tournaments, was to prevent the military ſpirit of the nobleſſe from relaxing in times of peace, and tranquility. And the tournament did moſt admirably well expreſs the toils and dangers of war. Nor did

did war in thoſe courtly days leſs accurately diſplay the politeneſs and gallantry of the tournament. The love of his miſtreſs inſpired the knight in both ſituations. He ſtiled himſelf in battle, the purſuivant of love, and was adorned with the portrait, the device and the livery of his fair one. It was by his ſuperior valour, that he was to prove her ſuperior beauty both in the tilt yard and the field.

CHIVALRY laboured every where either for the ſervice of the community, or the individual. It ſoftened the rough aſpect of war, diveſting it of half its terrors, by the refinements of an exceſſive courteſy. If the errant knight met with hoſpitality from the meaneſt man, he ever afterwards looked upon him as a noble and generons benefactor, avowing himſelf upon all occaſions his protector, and his friend.

THE knights were armed with an hawberk or habergeon, that was ſword proof.

And

And the coat of arms made of embroidered cloth, was the enſign of their pre-eminence above all other orders of the ſtate. The ſquires had not permiſſion to fight them, and if they had, their cuiraſſes were ſo thin, that they could but badly encounter thoſe, who were almoſt invulnerable.

THE knights had gold in their ſpurs, houſings, and other accoutrements; the ſquires only ſilver. A ſcarlet mantle, long, and flowing, and lined with ermine, was the peculiar dreſs of the knight, but purple was reſerved for royalty alone. The mantle of the ſquire was lined with ſome fur of ſmall value. The uſe of ſilk was forbidden to artizans, and but ſparingly permitted to knights, and ſquires.

THE ſhields of the knights were diſtinguiſhed by impreſſes, which were either the arms of him, from whom they had received the order, or the arms of their own family, ſometimes both were quartered together.

OTHERS had their own atchievements portrayed, but before they performed them, they uſually had their ſhields veiled, or elſe painted white, and were then called novel knights.

THE number of lances or other arms, that they gained, were painted in their ſhields, but if they met with a reverſe of fortune, the blazon was diminiſhed, ſo that their diſgrace could not be concealed.

IF the knight was honoured and reſpected during life, his remains alſo met with every mark of attention, after his deceaſe. His laurels flouriſhed green from the grave, and his former fame was not forgotten. If he fell in battle, which was the *bed of honour* and of true nobility: his effigy formed after the life, was placed on his tomb, but preſented upon the knees, his helmet on his head, his ſword by his ſide, his ſpurs on his heels, his gauntlets on his hands, and armed at all points, having above

above all his coat of arms. And over the monument, his banner, ſtandard, pennon, and ſhield, aptly placed. If he died of wounds received in battle, his effigy was armed with his cuiraſs and coat of arms, and beſide him his helmet, but not upon his head, his gauntlets alſo near it. He was to have his ſword by his ſide, his ſpurs on his heels, but above his monument was to be only the pennon, and not the great ſtandard. If he died of ſome ſickneſs in his houſe, his effigy ought not to be upon his knees, but lying along with his coat of arms, the helmet and ſpurs placed at his feet, and his feet lying, or ſupported by two dogs.

"THE great and worthy captain Bertrand Du Gueſclin, conſtable of France, the thunder-bolt and dreadful terror of the Engliſh; the prop and ſupport of the Caſtilians, laid ſiege before Caſtle Nau de Rondon in Gevaudan, the laſt place which the Engliſh held in the country of Auvergne, and ſwore by his ordinary oath

(I vow

(I vow to God) that he would unneſt the Engliſh thence.

" On the fifteenth day of the ſiege, the good conſtable died by ſickneſs, and his death being concealed ſome certain days; the Engliſh were conſtrained to yield, and themſelves brought the keys of the place, and laid them on the coffin of the great conſtable: whoſe body being embalmed, was carried by the count de Foreſts, to Moulins in the Bourbonnois, where the good duke of Bourbon performed for him a very ſolemn obſequie, in the church of Notre Dame de Moulins, and where newly the duke had founded a perpetual college. But before, the ſaid duke of Bourbon had ſent word to king Charles V. concerning the death of his noble conſtable, which his highneſs took exceeding grievouſly.

" And, becauſe the king well remembred the many acceptable ſervices of his conſtable

ble Meſire Bertrand du Gueſclin, count of Longueville; he being ſo forward for him during his life, he would not now ſeem backwards in honouring ſo brave a ſoldier after death. For the king ordained, that (after his death) the ſaid conſtable ſhould be buried honourably at his feet, at St. Denys, where the kings of France have their royal enterment.

"THE next year following departed out of this world king Charles the fifth, that had ſo valiantly, and wiſely governed his kingdom, and finiſhed his days in the year of our lord, one thouſand three hundred eighty eight.

"IN the year one thouſand three hundred and eighty nine, Charles the VI. being deſirous to honour the perſon of the conſtable du Gueſclin, cauſed to be ſung in the church of St. Denys a very ſolemn ſervice for the dead, with a moſt goodly luminary of wax tapers and torches lighted.

"FOR

"FOR mourners were appointed meſſires. Oliver de Cliſſon, with the Marſhal of Sancerre, and ten other Knights attired in robes of mourning.

"THE biſhop of Auxerre ſung the maſs, and when they came to the offering, the biſhop and the king came and entered the quire.

"AND firſt of all came four men of arms, armed at all points, mounted on courſers well appointed and adorned, *repreſenting* the perſon of the dead man when he lived.

"SECONDLY, after them came four men, having the coat of arms of the deceaſed when he lived, bearing banners of his arms.

"THIS being done the biſhop returned to the altar, and the mourners came to the offering, each one holding a ſhield with the

the deceaſed's arms, and a naked ſword with the point upward.

"AFTER theſe, the offering was ſeconded by them of the blood, and kindred to the king.

"AND then came eight gentlemen armed in coats of mail, who carried the helmets and four banners of the dead man's arms, and laid them on the altar.

"WHEN thoſe things were done, a learned ſermon was delivered by a doctor in divinity declaring the virtues, valor and wiſdom of the party deceaſed, and after the maſs was ended, they went all to dinner.

"THEN was given a general alms to the poor, and to all that would come; and great gifts were given by the king, to the lords and eminent perſons then preſent, in honour of ſo worthy a knight and noble gentleman, as was the late deceaſed conſtable."*

*See the tranſlation of Favine's theatre of honour, fol. edit. Lond. 1623.

CHIVALRY ſeems to have been in ſome meaſure eſtabliſhed among the ancient Gothic nations, before they broke in upon the Roman empire. A fondneſs for adventure, an inſatiate thirſt for battle, and an exceſſive complaiſance for their women were reckoned among their moſt diſtinguiſhing characteriſticks. Chivalry however, did not become a permanent and regular eſtabliſhment, till about the eleventh century, when it was interwoven with the feudal conſtitution, and grew to be an eſſential part of it, but it did not reach its full ſplendor, till the time of the cruſades, when its whimſical ceremonies were heightened, and embelliſhed by oriental magnificence.

The principal defects and inconveniencies of chivalry ſeem to have been, that the acquiſition of wordly, or uſeful knowledge was interrupted, from the mind being entranced in the viſions of heroiſm; that the recreant knight often abuſed the truſt, which was repoſed in him, and from

from being the protector, became the oppreſſor of the defenceleſs. Feuds and animoſities ſubſiſted between the nobles, and every conteſt was decided by the ſword. But theſe were the abuſes of chivalry, and were more than ballanced by the advantages reſulting from it. This ſplendid ſyſtem is now no more; it has melted away like the "baſeleſs "fabric of a viſion." This ſyſtem, impolitic perhaps, but liberal, raſh but diſintereſted, which invigorated the genius of the moſt illuſtrious heroes in the world, exiſts at preſent but in idea, in the fairy land of poetry and romance: oppoſite but not leſs venial exceſſes have ſupplanted it, the knight errant, the favorite of antiquity, would hardly eſcape the cenſure of weakneſs at this hour, in forgetting every private conſideration, for the extravagant purſuit of conferring adventitious and unſought for benefits—but in how inferior a light muſt the prudential character of this day have appeared in an age, when public approbation was the primary and unequivocal object of ambition.

I SHALL finiſh this diſſertation with a deſcription of Alnwick caſtle in Northumberland, the ancient ſeat of the renowned Percies. "You look in vain (ſays "the elegant Mr. Pennant) for any marks "of grandeur of the feudal age, for trophies "won by a family eminent in our annals "for military proweſs and deeds of chivalry; "for halls hung with helms and hawberks, "or with the ſpoils of the chaſe, for exten-"ſive foreſts and venerable oaks. You look "in vain for the helmet on the tower, the "ancient ſignal of hoſpitality to the tra-"veller, or for the grey-headed porter to "conduct him to the hall of entertain-"ment. The numerous train, whoſe "countenances gave welcome to him on "the way, are now no more, and in-"ſtead of the diſintereſted uſher of old "times, he is attended by the valet, "eager to receive the fees of admittance."

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HISTORY

OF THE

CHEVALIER BAYARD.

PETER DU TERRAIL, known by the name of the chevalier Bayard, was of one of thoſe illuſtrious perſonages, who do honour to their country, and dignify human nature. He was ſirnamed the *good chevalier without fear, and without reproach*; the many fair deeds of arms, which he atchieved, the many exalted virtues, which he poſſeſſed, have juſtly rendered him, one of the moſt accompliſhed characters, that have graced the page of hiſtory.

HE

He was born at the caſtle of Bayard in Dauphiny, about the latter end of the year fourteen hundred and ſixty-nine: for his anceſtors he counted a race of heroes, many of whom had ſignalized themſelves in battle againſt the Infidels, and had expended both their blood, and fortunes in the ſervice of their country.

They had diſtinguiſhed themſelves at Poictiers, and both Azincour and Verneuil had added to the luſtre of their reputation. The kings of France had often declared that one of the beſt ſwords in their realm was kept in the houſe of Terrail.*

By

* Aubert du Terrail and his ſon Robert were at the battle of Varey and ſignalized themſelves in a very conſpicuous manner. Aubert died two days after the action, of the wounds, which he had received: Robert on account of his many eminent ſervices, was made governor of Buiſſiere by the Dauphin Guiges the fifth: he was killed in one thouſand three hundred and thirty-ſeven, in an engagement between Humbert the brother of Guiges, and Amadeus the fifth duke of Savoy.

Philip

By his mother's ſide he was deſcended from the noble family of the Aleman's,

Philip his ſon was ſlain at the battle of Poictiers, after having made incredible efforts to defend the perſon of his ſovereign. Philip left behind him two ſons, Peter and John; the latter never married, and was killed at the battle of Vernueil in one thouſand four hundred and twenty-four.—And Peter the firſt of that name fell at the battle of Azincour in one thouſand four hundred and fifteen. Peter the ſecond was killed at the battle of Montleheri, where the Dauphineſe and a few Savoyards, who were in the right wing of the army of Lewis the eleventh defeated the left of the duke of Burgundy; Charles the ſeventh had honoured him with his eſteem, for when he was but a very young officer, he had eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the battle of Autun, where Gaucour the governor of Dauphiny routed Lewis de Chalons prince of Orange, who though heavily armed, was obliged to ſwim acroſs the Rhone, and ſo eſcaped his victorious purſuers. Aimon du Terrail the eldeſt ſon of Peter, and the father of our chevalier, was at the battle of Guinegate in fourteen hundred and ſeventy-nine, where he received ſeveral dangerous wounds. Vide hiſtoire du Chevalier Bayard, par Mr. Aimar.

which

which had been often honoured with ſome of the higheſt truſts, that could be repoſed in a ſubject.*

THUS was the chevalier Bayard deſcended from two houſes, where virtue and valour had been hereditary for centuries. Beſides

* Of this illuſtrious family there were five biſhops, three of Grenoble and two of Cahors, and one archbiſhop of Arles, whoſe merit procured him a cardinal's hat, and whoſe virtues canonized him, after his death, among the number of the ſaints, a grand prior of St. Giles's, who having gained ſeveral advantages over the Turks, made magnificent preſents to his order; there were ſeveral governors of Dauphiny, ſeveral counſellors of ſtate, and many brave officers: among the laſt was the famous Soffrey Aleman, commonly called captain Molart, whoſe name has been handed down moſt honourably to poſterity; he was commander of the Gaſcogn Infantry at the battle of Ravenna, where he was killed by a muſket ſhot, as he was breaking through the cloſe ranks of the Spaniſh Infantry, in which the principal ſtrength of the confederate army conſiſted. Vide hiſtoire du Chevalier Bayard par Mr. Aimar.

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the ſplendor of his birth, he inherited from his parents, an intrepid courage with an exalted ſenſe of honour, and as they were perſons of the moſt diſtinguiſhed merit, they took all poſſible care that his education ſhould be ſuitable to the dignity of his family, and the hopes they had entertained of him. When the firſt dawn of reaſon had appeared, he was inſtructed in the belles lettres, and as his genius was of the brighteſt kind, in a few years he made ſuch a progreſs in literature, as was deemed ſufficient in thoſe days for a young gentleman, who was deſigned for the ſword.

THE biſhop of Grenoble, his uncle by the mother's ſide, perceiving the many excellent virtues, which had already appeared in young Bayard, reſolved to give the laſt poliſh to his education, by having him inſtructed under his own eye.

THIS prelate was eminently diſtinguiſhed for learning and virtue, and being indefatigable in his attention to his nephew

phew, he made thoſe ſeeds of worth and honour, which were implanted in him, to ſhoot forth, and give the promiſe of an abundant harveſt.

As there were then no public academies in France, where the young nobleſſe were trained in the exerciſe of arms, his uncle had the moſt eminent maſters, that could be procured to inſtruct him in private, and as his natural taſte inſpired him with the love of arms, he ſoon became a finiſhed cavalier. He was admired for his addreſs, for his ſkill in dancing, for his knowledge of the ſword, and for performing all thoſe exerciſes, which it is the duty of a gentleman to know. But he was ſtill more admired for the virtues of his mind, than for his perſonal accompliſhments.

He was ſtrongly attached to knowledge at that early period of life, when moſt perſons think only of their pleaſures. There were times, however, when he was fond of amuſements, yet even in thoſe he preſerved an air of grandeur; they were not

not the amuſements of an inconſiderate youth, but the relaxations of a naſcent heroe. From his moſt early years, he had done nothing, that could merit reprehenſion: he had been remarkable both for his love of honour, and his reverence for religion.

His parents, in the thirteenth year of his age, ſeeing the fair progreſs, that he had made, reſolved to ſend him to the duke of Savoy, to be his page. His father being unable to accompany him, for he had been diſabled by the many wounds, that he had received in the field, the good biſhop of Grenoble charged himſelf with that care. He took him to Chamberri, where the court then was, and preſented him to the duke, who received him with many cordial marks of his eſteem. He was charmed with the elegance of his perſon, and the dignity of his mein, but he was particularly pleaſed at the graceful eaſe, with which he ſerved the biſhop his uncle, whom the duke had invited to dinner.

But that which confirmed him in his good opinion of the chevalier, was his ſkill in

in the manege; he exerciſed his ſteed with ſo much dexterity, that the duke complimented him in a ſignal manner; and he teſtified to his uncle, how much he was pleaſed with his gift, ſaying, that he was convinced, that the youth would not prove a diſhonour to his family, but would multiply the laurels of his anceſtors. From that time he retained a ſtrong affection for him, and not only he, but alſo the ducheſs, and all the other perſons of diſtinction at court, ſhewed him every condeſcenſion, that the luſtre of his birth, and his exalted virtues moſt juſtly entitled him to.

After having been ſome months in the ſervice of the duke of Savoy, who had placed him under the care of a truſty ſquire, who was to have a watchful eye over his conduct, he became remarkably ſkilled in performing all the duties of his office. When the neceſſary buſineſs of the day was over, he applied himſelf either to ſtudy, or to martial exerciſes, in which he was ſo expert, that he was propoſed as an example to all his other compeers.

Thongh

THOUGH Bayard was in high eſteem at the court of Savoy, and had good reaſon to be ſatisfied with his condition; yet, after having remained there ſix months, he left it, to enter into the ſervice of Charles the eighth of France. The French king, having taken up his reſidence for ſome time at Lyons, the duke underſtanding that he was in his neighbourhood, reſolved to pay his devoirs to him, and ſet out attended by a brilliant and magnificent retinue.

THE duke was but an eaſy day's journey from Lyons, when the king having heard of his approach, ſent Monſieur de Ligny of the houſe of Luxembourg, to make him thoſe compliments, which are due to a friend and ally. De Ligny having proceeded three or four leagues, met the duke, where he had halted for refreſhment, and having, on the part of his maſter, paid him thoſe honours which conſtitute the parade of royalty, he conducted him to the palace, which had been fitted up for his reception.

It was during this interview between Charles and the duke of Savoy, that Bayard gave a full diſplay of thoſe ſhining abilities which he poſſeſſed.—His blooming youth, his inſinuating manners, and his ſkill in martial exerciſes charmed the French king, who was now in the prime of life, and had always loved a brave and enterprizing ſpirit.

But it was again his dexterity in the manege, that gave Charles the higheſt idea of the chevalier's merit, for like a ſecond Alexander, he mounted a wild and ungovernable horſe, but he ruled him with ſo ſteady an hand, that he ſoon tamed his fiery ſpirit, which had never ſtooped before. Having pulled him in for a few minutes, that he might recover his wind, the king fearing leaſt he ſhould ſtop, called to him, ſaying, piquez, piquez, but as he was at too great a diſtance to hear him, the other pages repeated the words aloud, ſo that piquez, piquez, reſounded all over the field, and entailed on him the name of piquet for a long time after.

The

THE duke ſeeing that Charles was highly pleaſed with Bayard, and being deſirous to gratify his royal hoſt, preſented him to him; the monarch was pleaſed with the gift, and afterwards conferred on the youth, many tokens of his eſteem. Having ſerved the king three years in the quality of page, he was then enrolled among the number of his gentlemen.

IT was about this time that he atchieved an exploit, which confirmed his friends in the favorable opinion, which they had entertained of him. Charles the eighth having come a ſecond time to Lyons, to ſpend a few months; Monſieur de Vaudrè, a gentleman famous for his ſkill in arms, requeſted his leave to propoſe a tournament for the exerciſe of the nobility, and the entertainment of the court. Having obtained the king's permiſſion, he hung up his coat of armour, many of the moſt illuſtrious cavaliers ſtruck it, and gave in their names. Bayard having accidentally paſſed by the place, where the coat of armour of Monſieur de Vaudrè was hung up; with

Balarbre

Balarbre an old friend; a ſtrong deſire ſeized him to ſtrike it, but conſidering that he had not money enough to defray the expences of the tournament, he reſolved to relinquiſh his deſign. Pride made him ſilent, and trouble ſpread a gloom over his countenance. Belarbre ſaw him ſorrowful, and with that liberty, which friendſhip gives, aſked the cauſe. Bayard ingenuouſly told him his diſtreſs; fear not, replied Belarbre, you ſhall have every neceſſary, and your uncles will defray the expence.

You deceive yourſelf, rejoined Bayard, with a melancholy air, they will advance no money. Was my uncle the biſhop of Grenoble in the neighbourhood, there would be at leaſt a gleam of hope, but he is at too great a diſtance; as to my uncle the abbot D'Eſnay there is nothing to be expected from him. It matters nothing, ſaid Belarbre, you muſt ſtrike the coat of armour of Monſieur de Vaudrè, and I will anſwer for the event. To morrow we will go to your uncle the abbot D'Eſnay, who muſt not refuſe us. Bayard was perſuaded by his

his friend, he ſtruck the coat of armour and gave in his name.

THE next morning, the two friends went to the abbot D'Eſnay, they found him in a meadow adjoining to the abby, performing his devotions. Bayard told him the purport of his viſit: he anſwered with an air of coldneſs, in which reſentment ſeemed to be mingled with neglect; that he was ſorry to ſee his nephew's heart ſo full of vanity; that as he had not deigned to aſk his advice on the occaſion, he muſt have recourſe to thoſe, who had given him ſuch prudent counſel; that the goods of the church were not to be ſquandered away on profane amuſements. Bayard in a tone of voice full of ſorrow and reſpect, ſaid, that he had only purſued that track of glory, which had been marked out by his anceſtors, who had all ſignalized themſelves by deeds of arms, and had acquired by the ſword, an honourable renown: that if he was forſaken by his uncle, he muſt be expoſed to public ſhame; and that not only he, but the whole houſe of Terrail would be

covered with diſhonour. The heart of the abbot was melted,—he changed his opinion. He then gave his nephew, a letter of credit on his merchant, and money, to purchaſe horſes.

On the day of the tournament, the whole court, and a multitude of people were aſſembled. Galiot, lord of Acier, and ſeneſchal of Armagnac, Bonneval, Sandricour, Chatillon, who was great chamberlain, and marſhal of France, Bourdillon, and many others of high rank entered the liſts, and finiſhed their carreer with much honour. As Bayard was the laſt, who had given in his name, ſo was he alſo the laſt who ran againſt Monſieur de Vaudrè. The ſplendor of his dreſs, his youth, and his graceful mein fixed upon him the eyes and the hearts of all. He performed wonders both with the lance, the battle-ax, and the ſword. He was great both in attacking and defending himſelf againſt his adverſary: every one was charmed with the addreſs of ſo young a cavalier, who in the green of youth

youth, ſhewed the experience of a mature age. After having finiſhed his carreer, he returned along the liſts, with the vizor of his helmet lifted up; he received praiſe from the veteran warriour, and what is ſtill more pleaſing to a man of gallantry, admiration from the fair. The king who loved him, was delighted with his ſucceſs, and expreſſed in the warmeſt manner, the ſatisfaction, that it gave him.

After this, it pleaſed Charles to ſend Bayard to Air in Flanders, to be inſtructed in the art of war, in the company of artillery commanded by Monſieur de Ligny. At his departure from court, the king made him a conſiderable preſent of horſes and money, and the obliging manner in which it was conferred, enhanced the value of the gift. It ſeemed not the donation of a ſovereign to his ſubject, but a token of eſteem from a gallant gentleman to his equal. Monſieur de Ligny, beſide a handſome preſent, gave him a more ſolid teſtimony of his regard. He blended the advice

of an experienced officer, with the tear of a parting friend.

Upon his arrival at Air, he was treated with all thoſe marks of diſtinction, which are due to exalted merit; a ſuite of an hundred and twenty gentlemen met him near the gates of the city; thoſe compliments which uſually paſs between perſons of faſhion were exchanged, and all expreſſed the ſatisfaction, which they felt at his arrival, and the pleaſure, which they hoped to receive from the company of ſo accompliſhed a cavalier. The chevalier was not behind hand in courteſy, he treated every one with attention and reſpect. Amid this ſplendid cavalcade, he entered the town, and was conducted to his lodging, where he gave that evening an elegant ſupper, at which a propoſal, that he little expected, was made to him; a Monſieur Tardeiu, in the name of the whole company, requeſted that he would give them the diverſion of a tournament; that nothing could confer ſo great an obligation on them, as to ſee a diſplay of that proweſs, which had acquired him

him ſo much reputation. Bayard, with that modeſt frankneſs, which muſt ever pleaſe conſented, and deſired that a trumpet ſhould be ſent to him next morning, to receive his orders. Before he went to bed, he wrote his cartel of defiance, which was couched in the following terms. "Peter du Terrail, a gentleman of Dauphi- "ny, one of the king's company of artillery, "commanded by the high and mighty lord "Monſieur de Ligny, ſets forth, that a "tournament will be held without the walls "of the town of Air, on the twenty-fourth of "July, fourteen hundred and ninety-one, to "which all perſons are invited. On the "firſt day, the combatants are to engage "on horſeback in compleat armour, they "are to exchange three ſtrokes of the lance, "and twelve ſtrokes of the ſword, and "he, who in the opinion of the judges ſhall "have performed beſt, ſhall receive from the "ſaid Bayard, a bracelet of gold. On the "ſecond day, the combatants ſhall engage "on foot with lances, until they ſhall be "broken, and then to continue the combat "with the battle-ax, ſo long as the judges

"ſhall

"ſhall think fit, and he, who in their opi-
"nion, ſhall have performed beſt, ſhall
"receive a diamond ring."

TARDEIU waited on the chevalier next morning, and brought the trumpet along with him. The cartel of defiance lay on the table, he took it up, and read it; he then paid Bayard an high compliment, aſſuring him that neither Arthur, nor the knights of the round table, could have deviſed any thing, which breathed in a ſtronger degree, the ſpirit of Chivalry.

THE trumpet publiſhed the cartel through Air and its environs: ſeveral prepared themſelves for the combat, all wiſhed for the day with anxious expectation.

AT length the long wiſhed for day came,—Louis Dars the governor of Air, and the ſieur de St Quintin, captain lieutenant of the Scots troops, were appointed judges, by the ſuffrages of all: forty-ſix combatants entered the liſts, the trumpet ſounded, the cartel of defiance was read aloud.

BAYARD

BAYARD was the firſt, who with his lance in reſt, entered the liſts againſt his couſin Ammon of Salvaign, who was ſirnamed the Tartar, becauſe in the day of battle, he had always eminently ſignalized himſelf by his atchievements. They ſhivered their lances like gallant knights: Ammon of Salvaign pierced Bayard's vambrace, and the latter ſtruck of the plume off his adverſary's helmet. The next who engaged, were Belarbre, the good friend of the chevalier, and a captain Davidſon, a Scots gentleman; they, with much dexterity broke their three lances. All the reſt finiſhed their carreer, and came off with eclat. Then came on the combat of the ſword: Bayard drew his firſt, and at the ſecond ſtroke, it broke in two; nevertheleſs, he performed his devoirs ſo well, that his antagoniſt could gain no advantage from the accident: every one was charmed with his proweſs, declaring that his valour was not inferior to his renown. Others then entered the liſts and combated with ſucceſs. Thoſe who principally diſtinguiſhed themſelves on the firſt day, were Bayard, Bellarbre,

Bellarbre, captain Davidſon, the baſtard of Chemay, and Tardieu.

THE next morning Bayard began the combat with a gentleman of Hainault by name Hannotin, who was deemed one of the hardieſt men at arms on foot, in all Flanders. Having broke their lances, they then betook themſelves to their axes; Bayard with a great blow brought Hannotin on his knees, with a ſecond he laid him proſtrate along the ground; then the judges commanded him to deſiſt: the other gentlemen continued the amuſement, and performed their parts ſo well, that all the ſpectators were highly pleaſed with the tournament, and commended the ſkill and valour of the combatants. The bracelet and ring were adjudged to Bayard, but he, who was modeſt, for he was brave, turned about to the judges with a ſmile, and ſaid, "that his youth had made them pay him an unmerited compliment; that for his part he had diſplayed neither more addreſs, nor more ſkill in the tournament than another, but ſince their decrees were irrevocable, and

that

that he muſt ſubmit to them, he would therefore aſk leave to ſpeak in favour of ſome other perſons, though all the combatants had merited the higheſt applauſe, yet he thought that Belarbre and captain Davidſon had particularly diſtinguiſhed themſelves, and that to theſe two gentlemen the prizes ought to be given." All agreed that the award was juſt; Belarbre got the bracelet, and captain Davidſon the diamond ring.

BAYARD remained two years in Flanders, loved and eſteemed by a numerous acquaintance, and Monſieur de Ligny, to reward his merit, made him ſtandard bearer of his company of artillery, (a poſt of conſiderable importance in thoſe times). But Italy and not Flanders, was the ſcene where his proweſs was to ſhine out in its brighteſt luſtre. It was the battle of Fornova, that filled the meaſure of his reputation.

* CHARLES the eighth being induced by

* Vide Guicciardini Memoires de Comines, Vie du chevalier Bayard.

the

the ſollicitations of Lewis the Moor, (afterwards duke of Milan,) reſolved to make good thoſe pretenſions on the kingdom of Naples, which had devolved to him from Charles of Anjou, the brother of St. Louis. Dazzled by the ſplendor of the enterprize, which charmed his youthful and ſanguine temper, at the head of a well appointed, though not of a numerous army, he broke in like a torrent upon Italy. He bore down every thing before him, and the chicanery of Italian politics proved unequal to the impetuoſity of French valour. Florence, Sienna, and Rome itſelf opened their gates to the conqueror. Naples made but a feeble reſiſtance, Charles entered it in triumph, looking upon himſelf as the perſon, who was to give the law to Italy.

But whilſt Italy was too narrow a limit for his wiſhes, and in idea he had already humbled the pride of the creſcent, he was on a ſudden ſtripped, of all his new conqueſts. The Italians could not endure to be ſubject to a ſtranger, and many of their princes began to look upon his ſucceſs with

a jealous

a jealous eye. The pope (Alexander the ſixth) the Venetians, and Lewis the Moor, together with Maximilian king of the Romans, Ferdinand of Arragon, and Iſabella of Caſtile, entered into an alliance againſt him. —The treaty was ſigned at Venice, and with ſuch ſecrecy, * that Comines, the French ambaſſador there at that time, was not informed of it, until the troops were levied, and in readineſs to march againſt his maſter. The king was on his return to France with the greater part of his army, when he was informed of it; he received the news with calmneſs and intrepidity; animated by his own courage, and relying more on the bravery, than on the number of his troops, he continued his march.

† The army of the confederates was fifty thouſand ſtrong, commanded by the marquis of Gonzaga, who had under him ſeveral experienced generals. They were

* Vie du chevalier Bayard.

† Guicciardini Memoires de Comines. Vie du chevalier Bayard.

poſted

poſted near the village of Fornova, on an eminence, which fell with a gradual ſlope towards the Taro: they were entrenched in the ſtrongeſt manner, and had their camp furniſhed with a numerous artillery, eſpecially on that ſide, where the French army was to paſs the river. They looked upon themſelves as invincible; their numbers made them confident of victory. Charles relied upon the former ſucceſs of his arms, and upon the national valour of his troops. They were a band of heroes, led on by an heroic king.

* The next morning at day break, the king mounted his horſe and drew up his army in battle array. The van guard which conſiſted of about three thouſand men was commanded by the marſhal de Giê of the houſe of Rohan. The main battle, of about two thouſand five hundred men was led by the king in perſon, aſſiſted by Trivulci. The rear guard was under the direction of La Tremouille, the duke of Guiſe, John de

* Guicciardini, memoires de Comines. Vie du chevalier Bayard.

Foix,

Foix, viſcount of Narbonne, and Philibert of Montoiſon; it was about three thouſand ſtrong. At eight in the morning, the whole army was prepared for action. The king rode from rank to rank, his words encouraged the faint-hearted,—his deportment confirmed the brave—his expreſſions were but few, for they flowed from his heart.

"Be not unmindful, ſaid he, my gallant "countrymen, of your former valour, re- "member that all Italy has ſunk beneath "the vigour of your arm; you came, you "ſaw, and you conquered: the enemy has "circumvented you by treaſon, but your "courage will overcome every difficulty." —The French now advanced towards the Taro, and the confederates made a diſcharge of their artillery, without any conſiderable execution. After Charles had paſſed the river, Gonzaga, with twelve thouſand choſen men, and the flower of the Italian nobility, attacked his rear. The infantry gave way, but their ranks were not broken: the cavalry then advanced to their ſupport, and taking the enemy in flank, prevented them from

from taking any advantage from the diſorder of the infantry. The engagement was deſperate and bloody, the French being determined to conquer or die, and eſpecially the nobility, a brave and generous band, which deſpiſed danger, bore down all before them, with an impetuous valour. The infantry ſoon rallied, and repulſed the enemy with conſiderable loſs. Gonzaga now poured down freſh troops, and the battle thickened on every ſide. It was here, that Ives du Terrail, a couſin german of Bayard's, fell like many of his brave anceſtors, and returned thanks to heaven, with his lateſt breath, for having aſſigned him ſo honourable an end.

The king, fearing leſt his rear ſhould be overpowered, at the head of three hundred horſe, haſtened to their aſſiſtance, and threw the enemy into ſuch confuſion, that they fled with the utmoſt precipitation. The French purſued, but in the midſt of victory, they had almoſt loſt their king; he was left alone with very few attendants, and the marquis of Gonzaga, ſoon perceiving

ing their error, began with ſome of his beſt troops to hem him in. Every one wiſhed to ſeize him, that he might be entitled to the hundred thouſand crowns, which had been offered, as a reward for him alive or dead.—A reward which ſhewed the meanneſs of the propoſer.—The young nobleſſe, (many of whom wore the inſignia of royalty, to prevent their monarch from being ſingled out by the enemy,) gathered about him, (they were the ſons of thoſe, who had bathed the ſcaffold with blood in his father's reign;* but they fought for a ſovereign, whom they loved:) Bayard was among them, and combated with all the bravery of a heroe; he placed himſelf near his prince, and atchieved in his defence ſuch deeds of arms, as would have done honour to the days of chivalry. At length a party of French cavalry coming up, the enemy retreated. That day the king performed prodigies of valour, ſhewing himſelf worthy to be the leader of a gallant army. He was mounted on a long-tailed black horſe, which the duke of Savoy had beſtowed him, as he paſſed through Turin: though he

* Lewis the eleventh.

he wanted an eye, and was above eighteen years old, yet was he irreſiſtable in battle, attacking the enemy with the utmoſt fury, both with his heels, and teeth: ſuch were the Bayardo, and the Brigliadoro of Arioſto!

*THE victory was glorious, though indeciſive. Charles returned home in ſafety, but all his acquiſitions in Italy were loſt. De Ligny preſented Bayard to him after the battle, "Sire," ſaid the count, ſee here your Piquet, who has behaved during the action with uncommon bravery. He has had two horſes killed under him, and has taken this ſtandard from the enemy, which he now has the honour of preſenting to you. But why do I mention his virtues? you have

*The French as they purſued the enemy cried out, remember Guinegate.—Guinegate is a village in Picardy near Terouenne. In the latter end of the reign of Lewis the eleventh, a battle was fought here between the emperor Maximilian, and the French troops: the latter were upon the point of gaining the victory, when falling upon the baggage, the Flemings rallied and defeated the French.—Guicciardini.

been

been an eye witneſs of his exploits. The monarch replied, "that he was fully ſatisfied of Piquet's valour," and then turning to him, "continue," ſaid he, "to diſtinguiſh yourſelf, and I will not forget you."

He then made him a preſent of five hundred crowns, and conferred on him the order of knighthood with his own hand, and as he gave him this glorious teſtimony of his eſteem, he ſaid, "that he had ſeen no one during the engagement, who had rendered himſelf more worthy of that honour." The road to preferment ſeemed now to be fairly opened to the chevalier, when Charles, after a ſplendid though uſeleſs reign, departed this life at the caſtle of Amboiſe in the twenty-eighth year of his age, and the fifteenth of his reign.——April eighth, fourteen hundred and ninety-eight.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHEVALIER BAYARD.

BOOK II.

THOUGH Bayard, under Charles the eighth, had ſignalized himſelf by many gallant actions, yet it was not until the following reign, that his reputation was fully eſtabliſhed: it was then that foreign potentates courted his friendſhip, and that ſovereign princes paid their homage to his virtue. His fame was a deep river, which rolled on, continually ſwelling with new honors, that flowed into it.

LEWIS duke of Orleans, who is ſo well known by that moſt glorious of appellations,

pellations, *the father of his people*, ſucceeded both to the crown, and the misfortunes of Charles, for he purſued with all the eagerneſs of his predeceſſor, the viſionary proſpect of an Italian ſcepter. Soon after his acceſſion to the throne, he ſent a powerful army into Italy, under the command of de Ligny of Luxembourg, with Trivulci, and D'Aubigni, as lieutenant generals, who were both officers of approved reputation. Once more, the Italians felt their inability to reſiſt the *furia Franceſe*, and the French found by ſad experience, that they could not maintain their acquiſitions. Conqueſts are made by the enterprizing and the brave, but they are to be kept by the circumſpect and the wiſe.

PAVIA, Milan, and ſeveral other towns opened their gates, as ſoon as the conquerors appeared, and in one campaign, all the Milaneſe ſubmitted to the French king. But a fatal overſight ſoon ſtripped him of this fair territory, for a conſiderable part of the army being ſent to winter in France;

France; by this miſtake the garriſons were weakened, and the frontier was left expoſed to the invaſion of the enemy. Bayard ſaw the error, and remonſtrated againſt it, but in vain: The courtiers lulled the king into ſecurity, and the advice of this gallant ſoldier was deemed too harſh for the royal ear. Lewis Sforza having levied a conſiderable army in Germany, marched into Italy, and recovered the Milaneſe, almoſt with the ſame rapidity, with which it had been wreſted from him.

Some time before this expedition of Sforza's, Bayard had repaired to Carignan, to pay his reſpects to the dutcheſs of Savoy, whom he had not ſeen ſince he had left the ſervice of the duke her huſband, and that amiable princeſs received him with many marks of her friendſhip and eſteem. After ſupper, one of the maids of honour of the dutcheſs aſked a requeſt of Bayard in the name of her miſtreſs, that he would entertain the court with the diverſion of a tournament; and he complied with that readineſs and condeſcenſion, which are due from a gallant gentleman to a fair lady. That

That evening he ſent a trumpet to publiſh the cartel of defiance, the purport of which was, as follows, that in four days a tournament would be held in the great ſquare of Carignan, that the combatants were to appear in compleat armour, that they were to exchange three ſtrokes of the lance, and twelve of the ſword, and that a ruby worth an hundred Ducats ſhould be given to that cavalier, who performed beſt. Fifteen French and Italian knights entered the liſts, and all finiſhed their career with honor. But his uſual good fortune followed the Chevalier; he ſhewed himſelf ſuperior to all his adverſaries both at the lance and the ſword, and the prize was with one voice adjudged to be his. But as he had been the donor, the ruby could not return to him, therefore he was to determine, who had beſt deſerved it after him; this honor, however, he would not arrogate to himſelf, but with that politeneſs, which diſtinguiſhes the brave, he left the deciſion of it to Madam de Fluxas, a lady for whom, he had profeſſed a particular regard. She, after having adviſed with the

the other cavaliers, adjudged the prize to Monſieur de Mandragon, who had ſignalized himſelf in a very conſpicuous manner.

The Chevalier remained at Carignan, until the fame of Lewis Sforza's invaſion of the Milaneſe had reached there, and then taking a reſpectful leave of the dutcheſs, he repaired to his regiment. The French king being alarmed at the rapid progreſs of Sforza, who had ſubdued almoſt all the Milaneſe, and repenting that the advice of Bayard had been neglected, now ſent a new army under de Ligni, and la Tremouille to oppoſe the invader, and check him in his career of victory. The war ſeemed to thicken, and new dangers courted the Chevalier on every ſide, but they only enhanced his reputation; ſo that it may be ſaid, that the convulſion of kingdoms ſerved but to augment the ſplendor of his renown.

A few days after Milan had opened its gates to Sforza, Bayard with fifty horſe defeated a party of three hundred, commanded

manded by Cazacchi, an experienced captain, for his ſingle arm more than ballanced the ſuperiority of numbers; and that day he ſurpaſſed himſelf, having performed prodigies of valour. The enemy giving way, fled precipitately towards Milan, and Bayard fluſhed with all the ardor of a conqueror, having left his own party at a conſiderable diſtance behind, entered the gates of Milan, with the flying foe: he perceived not his miſtake, until he had reached the ducal palace: all his efforts to retreat were now ineffectual, for the white croſs, which quartered his ſhield, had diſcovered him to the enemy, which ſurrounded him on every ſide, ſo that he was obliged to ſurrender to Cazacchi. This officer, who had admired his proweſs in the field, carried him to his own houſe, where he treated him in a manner ſuitable to his rank, and merit. Among poliſhed nations, war is diveſted of half its terrors, for the refinements of courteſy, which are practiſed among them, relieve the mind, from the ſcenes of carnage, which are preſented to its view. Cazacchi then waited on the duke

duke of Milan, to whom he painted the valour of his priſoner in ſuch glowing colours, that he expreſſed a ſtrong deſire to ſee him.

BAYARD appeared before the duke, with that noble air, by which perſons of high rank, are diſtinguiſhed, even in their misfortunes. Sforza was ſo charmed with his gallant mien, and pleaſing converſation, that he gave him leave to depart ranſom-free, and ordered his horſe and arms to be reſtored to him. The chevalier, though heavily armed, vaulted into his ſaddle, in the preſence of the duke, who admired his activity. He then went through the manege, broke two or three lances, and after having made a profound obeiſance to Sforza, rode off towards the French army, which he joined a few leagues from Milan; all his friends were rejoiced to ſee him again; all were eager to know by what good fortune he had eſcaped.

AFTER this, he killed Hyacynth Simoneta, a Milaneſe gentleman, in ſingle combat. Simoneta

Simoneta was brave but vain-glorious, and had often ſet the French cavaliers at defiance. Bayard rouſed by his inſults, challenged him to the field. His meſſage was accepted; the time, the place, the arms, and the judges were appointed. The two antagoniſts entered the liſts, and engaged with the utmoſt fury. Their valour was heightened by pride, honour, and national reſentment. But Simoneta, brave as he was, ſoon ſunk beneath the ſuperior proweſs of the chevalier, and was left dead on the field.

Sforza, whom his good fortune, had raiſed almoſt to the pinnacle of proſperity, now beheld a ſad reverſe in his affairs, the Milaneſe was recovered, he was taken priſoner at Novaro by the treachery of the Swiſs, and carried into France, where he ended in captivity the ſad evening of a ſtormy life.*

After

*Jacamuzzo Sforza, the grandfather of Lewis, from being a common labourer, became conſtable of Naples; his ſon Francis was a leader of the Condottieri, and married Blanch the natural

After the reduction of the Milaneſe, the French puſhed their conqueſts into the kingdom of Naples, † where for a time, their arms flouriſhed with ſucceſs, till their progreſs was checked by Gonſalvo de

natural daughter of Phillip Maria Viſconti, duke of Milan, whom he ſucceeded in his dukedom. Galeas the ſon of this Francis ſucceeded his father in the dutchy, and was aſſaſſinated; he left behind him a ſon, by name John Galeas; it is generally ſuppoſed he was poiſoned by his uncle Lewis Sforza, that he might ſucceed him in the dukedom.

See Machiavel's hiſtory of Florence, and Guicciardini.

The reader of taſte will meet with a fine deſcription of Sforza's priſon, in Wraxal's tour through France.

† The French firſt invaded the kingdom of Naples, in conjunction with Ferdinand; the pope having given them both a joint inveſtiture, but they afterwards diſagreed about the diviſion of it.—See Guicciardini book fifth.

It is ſomewhat remarkable that Frederick king of Naples retired into France, chuſing to depend on the bounty of a ſtranger, rather than to put any confidence in his kinſman Ferdinand.

Cordova,

Cordova, ſirnamed the great captain, who was ſent againſt them by Ferdinand the catholic, who had alſo his claims to the Neapolitan ſceptre. Gonſalvo though an able general, yet has left behind him a character unbecoming the pride and dignity of his nation His maxim was, *that the web of honor ſhould be woven coarſely.* An ungenerous ſentiment, which withers all his laurels.

BAYARD being in garriſon at Monervina, ſallied out with thirty horſe, and defeated near Andreſa, fifty Spaniards, who were commanded by don Alonzo de Soto Mayor, a brave officer, and a relation to the great Gonſalvo. After a ſharp reſiſtance the Spaniards fled, and don Alonzo was obliged to ſurrender himſelf priſoner to Bayard, who conducted him to Monervina, and treated him with the diſtinction due to his rank, leaving him without a guard upon his parole of honour, that he would not depart until he had paid his ranſom. But the Spaniard being one of thoſe, whom neither the ties of friendſhip or generoſity

can

can bind, having got an opportunity, departed privately, after ſacrificing his fair fame to the luſt of lucre. The chevalier having heard of his flight, detached a party, which ſoon overtook him, and brought him back to Monervina, where he was cloſely confined, until Gonſalvo ſent a thouſand crowns, which was the ſum ſtipulated for his ranſom, and which Bayard generouſly divided among the ſoldiers in his garriſon.

Alonzo having returned to Andreſa, ſeemed to be covered with the gloom of melancholy, and ſome of his brother officers having demanded the cauſe of his dejection, he replied, "that Bayard had treated him in a "harſh and diſreſpectful manner." This declaration having been overheard by a priſoner, who was ſoon after exchanged, it was imparted by him to the chevalier, whoſe high ſpirit was rouzed at the falſe accuſation, and after having appealed to the officers in garriſon, if the charge was not unjuſt, he ſent a trumpet to Andreſa, with a billet, the purport of which was, that either Don Alonzo ſhould retract thoſe words of falſehood, which he

he had thrown out againſt him, or that in five days he (Don Alonzo) ſhould meet him in a place to be named by the trumpet, to give him the ſatisfaction, which was due to a gentleman and a ſoldier. The anſwer of the Spaniard was haughty and conciſe. "Signior Bayard, every gentleman is to maintain by his ſword, what his lips have uttered; and he is a hardy man indeed, who dares to call in queſtion the veracity of Alonzo de Soto Mayor." On the appointed day the combatants met. Each was accompanied by ſeveral officers of diſtinction, and two hundred men at arms. Bayard having firſt thrown himſelf on his knees, and recommended himſelf to heaven, then roſe up, and advanced towards Alonzo, who meeting him half way, ſaid, "Señor Bayardo, que quieres." Signior Bayard, what ſeek you? My honor replied Bayard, which you have taken from me. This was the ſignal for the combat. They both fought on foot with ſword, and poynard, and both diſplayed the utmoſt courage, and addreſs. They parried the thruſts of each other for a long time, and fortune ſeemed to be in ſuſpenſe, but

but at length Bayard having given the Spaniard a dangerous wound in the throat, the advantage ſoon appeared to be on his ſide. Alonzo finding himſelf wounded, threw away his ſword, and grappled with his antagoniſt, but the loſs of blood had weakened him ſo much, that he fell down breathleſs on the plain. Bayard ruſhed on him with his poinard, crying aloud, "ſurrender yourſelf, your life is in my hand." But the Spaniard was no more! The chevalier did not perceive that he was dead, until Don Diego de Quiñones, ſaid to him, "Señor Bayard, ya ha muerto, haveis vencido." Signior Bayard, he is already dead, you have conquered. The victor was troubled, he wiſhed to have overcome, but not to have killed.

After having returned thanks to heaven for the victory, which he had gained, he took the dead body of Don Alonzo out of the liſts to ſhew that the field was his, he then aſked Don Diego de Quiñones, if he had done enough, "Demaziado, Señor Bayardo, por el honor d'Eſpana," replied Don

Don Diego. You have done too much, Signior Bayard for the honor of Spain. "Had not my honor obliged me," rejoined the chevalier, "we ſhould not have been eye-witneſſes of this melancholy event, but Don Alonzo compelled me to it. Though his body is mine by the law of arms, yet I ſhall leave it to be diſpoſed of, as you and his brother officers ſhall judge moſt convenient." The Spaniards thanked Bayard for his courteſy, and carried the corſe to Andreſa, where it was interred with all military honors.

It has long been a problematical point, whether duelling has has been uſeful or prejudicial to ſociety. Both ſides of the queſtion have been maintained with the utmoſt ingenuity, by their reſpective advocates, who have exhauſted all the chicane of argument, and all the ſophiſtry of diſpute, without ever coming to any preciſe determination. The abettors of it ſay, that it diffuſes politeneſs and courteſy through a nation, preventing perſons of a narrow fortune from being mal-treated by thoſe, whoſe

whoſe more affluent circumſtances may have filled them with inſolence and pride: That it brings all, who rank themſelves as gentlemen, upon a level, making them behave towards each other with deference and complaiſance. If a private gentleman receive an affront from a nobleman, he can call him to a ſtrict account for the offence, and wipe away the diſhonor with his ſword: they alſo ſay, that it keeps alive the military ſpirit of a nation, making their armies invincible, and ſuperior to every difficulty they may encounter.

On the other hand, thoſe who conſider it as an abuſe, tell us, that it is directly repugnant to the precepts of the goſpel, which in the ſtrongeſt terms, recommends to us meekneſs of temper and forgiveneſs of injuries; that in the well regulated republicks of Greece and Rome, where all the politeneſs of the heathen world muſt have taken up its reſidence, duelling was not known; that the point of honor is nothing more than an umeaning ſound, and deſerves to be derided by all men of

ſenſe; and they further prove to us the abſurdity of duelling, by ſhewing, that the injured perſon often looſes his life in the rencounter, whilſt the aggreſſor remains triumphant and ſecure.

Upon the whole, I think we may infer, that duelling, like all other human devices, is a compound of good and evil. Whilſt it holds out to us its advantages in the one hand, it wiſhes to hide its inconveniencies in the other. Certain it is, that the edicts of Lewis the fourteenth, againſt duelling, have been both ſerviceable, and detrimental to the French nation, they have prevented the effuſion of a deal of blood in private quarrels, but have they not alſo damped the courage of the ſoldiery?

A love of gallantry and romantick adventure was once the favourite paſſion of the Spaniards, but a combination of ſeveral cauſes has in a great meaſure, relaxed their ſpirit: The entire expulſion of the Moors out of Spain, and the flow of wealth, which was poured in upon them from

from the new world have eminently contributed. The removal of a dangerous enemy has made them dilatory and inattentive, whilſt the gold of Mexico and Peru has made them luxurious and effeminate. Add to theſe conſiderations—their tedious and unſucceſsful war in the low countries, which cauſed an unavailing expenditure of their blood and treaſure, and damped the ſpirit of the nation. Their Pelayos, and their Cids, their Gonſalvos and their Cortezes are now no more. The moſt lofty pride, and the moſt ſhining courage were united in the old Spaniards. The pride of their nation ſtill remains, but their courage has inſenſibly declined away.

BAYARD ſeems to have been one of thoſe great ſouls, who come into the world to appear with dignity and eclat, for his whole life was a ſplendid tiſſue of honourable deeds. But that, which diffuſed his fame over Italy, was the celebrated combat of the thirteen. A truce having been agreed to for a few months between the French and Spaniſh armies, ſome of the high ſpirited cavaliers,

who were impatient of repoſe, reſolved to recreate themſelves with the breaking of a few lances. The time and place were appointed, and the conditions of the field ſubſcribed to, which were: Firſt, that whoſoever ſhould paſs beyond certain limits, which were to be fixed, was to be excluded from the combat. Secondly, that thoſe, who ſhould be diſmounted were to engage no more. Thirdly, that if the one party could not entirely defeat the other, they were both to quit the field with equal honour. The Spaniards and Italians, fearing the ſuperior proweſs of the French cavaliers, availed themſelves of a low fineſſe. Deſigning to take advantage of the ſecond article of the field, they attacked the horſes of their adverſaries, and killed eleven of them in the firſt encounter; thoſe of Bayard and a Monſieur D'Oroze having alone eſcaped, by the addreſs of their riders. Though they were but two, againſt thirteen, yet they defended themſelves with ſuch dexterity, that the Spaniſh knights could gain no ſuperiority from their numbers. Bayard and d'Oroze retired behind the dead

dead horſes of their friends, whoſe bodies ſerved them for a barrier againſt the enemy, and prevented their being ſurrounded on every ſide. Here they kept their opponents at bay until the evening, when the judges ſeeing that neither party could prevail, ordered them to return from the field with equal honour: Bayard and d'Oroze were highly commended, and all agreed that the French gentlemen would have been victorious, had they not been prevented by the treachery of their opponents.*

THOUGH the battle of Cerignola was unfortunate to the French arms, yet it covered the chevalier with new honors. The duke de Nemours irritated by the perfidy of the great Gonſalvo, who had broken a truce, which had been ſolemnly agreed to, attacked with a precipitate raſhneſs, that cautious general in his entrench-

* Guicciardini. Vie du chevalier Bayard. Guicciardini gives the honor of this combat to the Spaniards and Italians, but once for all, I ſhall here obſerve, that he is too fond of leſſening the valor of the French.

ments.

ments. The event was as unfortunate, as the deſign was imprudent. The duke led the van, and Bayard with his uſual gallantry combated by his ſide.

As the French advanced towards the Spaniſh entrenchments, a proud Caſtilian ruſhed forth, and challenged the hardieſt knight of France, to meaſure ſwords with him, his defiance was accepted by the chevalier, who ſoon put a period to his life.

That day the duke de Nemours was killed: the flower of the French forces was cut off; and the whole army would have been in the moſt imminent danger, had not Bayard poſted himſelf in the rear to cover their retreat.

The ſhattered remains of the French army, after the defeat of Cerignola, retired behind the Garrillano, and having intrenched themſelves, reſolved to diſpute the paſſage of the river with Gonſalvo, who at the head of his victorious troops, was advancing towards them. Bayard and another cavalier had

had the charge of the bridge of Formaino, when two hundred Spaniſh horſe appeared. He rightly judging, that their intent was to force a paſſage over the bridge, ſent his coadjutor for a reinforcement, and oppoſed himſelf ſingly to the attack of the enemy, who were aſtoniſhed at his intrepidity, and the ſurprizing efforts of his valor. He maintained his ground, until an hundred men at arms came to his aſſiſtance, who eaſily repulſed the adverſe party.

But misfortune often treads upon the heel of victory. The chevalier having performed thoſe glorious exploits, was in a few moments after, made a priſoner by thoſe very troops, whom he had defeated. Having continued the purſuit for ſome time, he ordered the retreat to be ſounded, and lingering in the rear according to his uſual cuſtom, was left at a conſiderable diſtance behind, by his party. Unfortunately for him, his horſe almoſt worn out with fatigue, fell under him. This accident was perceived by a detachment of Spaniſh cavalry, which ruſhing down, attacked him with

with great violence: for a time he made a gallant defence, and would have diſengaged himſelf, without difficulty, but was prevented by the failure of his horſe, and was at length obliged to ſurrender. Some of his party had by this time perceived that he was not with them. Shame, rage, and ſorrow, operated upon them by turns. They came back in full gallop, defeated the enemy, which was carrying him off, and recovered their gallant leader.

All paid him the tribute of applauſe, even the great Gonſalvo was laviſh of his praiſes. Muchos Grizones, ſaid he, "y pocos Bayardos;" there are many Griſons, but few Bayards. This expreſſion implied that there were many cowards, but few men of ſuch worth and courage, as the chevalier.

The ſiege of Venoſa (which was defended by him and Lewis d'Ars for a year,) and the celebrated retreat they made after, were a new acquiſition to his glory, and as he paſſed through Rome, on his return to France, procured him an honorable reception

tion from Julius the ſecond. Several advantageous propoſals were made to him by that martial Pontiff, who had often thrown aſide the tiara and the croſier, for the helmet and the ſword.

THE Pope, having offered him the command of his forces, with a conſiderable appointment, in declining that honour, he diſplayed all the gallantry, and vivacity of his nation: "I have but two maſters," ſaid he, "the one in heaven, and the other on earth, nor would I quit thoſe two, for the riches of the univerſe." From Rome, he ſet out for Paris, where he was welcomed by the ſmiles and approbation of his ſovereign.

BUT the Chevalier was to paſs the Alps once more, and to reap another harveſt of Italian laurels. Though he was ill at Lyons, of a quartan ague, which had afflicted him for ſeven years, and of a wound, which he had received in the laſt campaign, that was not healed, yet he joined the army, with all the alacrity of a young volunteer, and both his prudence and valour were principally

principally inſtrumental in the reduction of Genoa, which had withdrawn its allegiance from the French king. The efforts of the Genoeſe were feeble and ineffectual: They only rivetted thoſe chains, which they thought to have ſhaken off. Liberty, by an ill-judged effort, frequently looſes even its very exiſtence, in endeavouring to acquire new ſtrength; and its adherents, without doing ſervice to its cauſe, have often loſt their lives in the field, or on the ſcaffold.

About this time, Lewis the twelfth, and Ferdinand the Catholic, had an interview at Savona; it has been deſcribed with much pomp, by an hiſtorian * of thoſe times. The two monarchs ſeemed to have forgot all the animoſities, which had ſubſiſted between them: all ſchemes of intereſt, and politicks ſeemed to be laid aſide, and they affected to treat each other with the openneſs, and candour of private gentlemen. But during theſe ſcenes of feſtivity, the ruin of

* Guiccardini.

the

the Venetians was concerted; and the deſigning Ferdinand over-reached the French king.

Soon after this, the celebrated league of Cambray, ſtirred up, and armed moſt of the European potentates. The republic of Venice had long been the admiration, and the envy of Europe. Her influence had extended to the fartheſt regions of the eaſt, the ſeas had been covered with her fleets, and the produce of India had been circulated by her merchants, over the weſtern world. Though ſhe was one of the bulwarks of Chriſtendom againſt the attacks of the Ottoman empire, and had often checked the enterprizes of ſome of the moſt ambitious ſultans; yet it was Pope Julius the ſecond, who firſt planned this formidable alliance, which almoſt brought her to the verge of ruin: the emperor Maximilian and Ferdinand of Arragon, having their reſpective claims on part of the Venetian territories, eagerly adopted the ſchemes of this aſpiring Pontiff, and Lewis the twelfth, contrary to his true political intereſt, being amuſed by the ſpecious promiſes of Julius and Ferdinand, acceded alſo to the alliance.

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THE Venetians, without a ſingle ally, behaved in a manner becoming the rank and dignity of their republick: they levied armies, filled their magazines, and put their towns in a poſture of of defence.—But the fatal battle of Agnadello blaſted all their expectations. Their generals, with an impetuoſity unuſual to their country, engaged the confederate army commanded by the French king, and imprudently hazarded by one deciſive blow, the fortune of the war, which it was their buſineſs to have protracted. Bayard on this memorable day, behaved with his uſual courage, and received as a recompenſe for his valor, the applauſe of his king. The victory was compleat, and its effects materially felt by the vanquiſhed: above an hundred towns opened their gates to the conqueror. Padua, Verona, and Vicenza, were given up to the emperor Maximilian; Padua, however, was retaken by the Venetians, and beſieged again by the emperor.*

* Vie du chevalier Bayard. Guicciardini.

It was here that Bayard gave a ſignal mark of that loftineſs of ſpirit, which is uſually hereditary, in perſons of noble birth. The emperor having reſolved to give a general aſſault, he ſent a letter, the evening before, to La Paliſſe, the commander of the French troops, the purport of which was, that he ſhould mount the breach the next day at the head of his men along with the Lanſquenets. La Paliſſe, having read the letter, ſaid to the ſecretary who brought it, "that he wondered his imperial majeſty "had not called him, or any other of the "French officers to the council of war, "where, perhaps, they might have given "ſome neceſſary information; that, how-"ever, he would ſtrive to obey his injunc-"tions; that he would aſſemble his officers "and inform them of the commands, which "the emperor had honoured him with, "and then acquaint him as ſoon as poſſible, "with their determination."

La Palisse, having called a council of war, read to his officers the emperor's letter: they unanimouſly agreed, that his requeſt ſhould

ſhould be complied with, and that every neceſſary operation ſhould be made for the enſuing attack. Bayard alone kept a deep ſilence. La Paliſſe, turning to him, ſaid, "you, who are the Hercules of France, why ſpeak you not?" "My ſentiments," ſaid Bayard, "differ widely from thoſe of other "gentlemen; I do not chuſe to be covered "with infamy and ſhame: has not the "emperor treated us with inattention, and "diſreſpect? Are gentlemen of rank and "faſhion to go to the aſſault with his "Lanſquenets, who are the very dregs of "the people? No! Let this be our "anſwer to the emperor, that we are ready "to mount the breach, that we are ready "to encounter every danger, provided that "he gives us aſſociates of an honorable "condition."

His remonſtrances had the deſired effect, and the emperor expreſſed himſelf to be highly pleaſed with his ſpirited conduct. But the German nobleſſe, as they conſtantly fought on horſeback declined to mount the breach along with the French, the prince of

of Anhalt alone, having offered to accompany them. Maximilian, being diſſatisfied with their anſwer, raiſed the ſiege the ſame day, and retired ſoon after into Germany.

As it is not my deſign to recount all the military exploits, which were performed by the chevalier; (for battles and ſieges ſplendid though they be, muſt at length become tedious and diſguſting both to the writer and the reader, by clogging the imagination with proſpects of unvaried carnage); therefore I ſhall dwell principally upon thoſe events, which either tend to characterize the man, or to mark the ſpirit of the age.—We ſhould have been happy to have ſeen the chevalier removed at times from the ſhock of arms, to have found him philoſophiſing in his ſtudy, or preſiding at the helm of political affairs, but he was always employed in the field,—arms were his recreation, and combat his repoſe. The heroes of antiquity were in one reſpect ſuperior to moſt of thoſe of modern times. Though they purſued arms, yet they courted literature; Pericles, Xenephon, and Epaminondas

Epaminondas were as eminent for their love of philoſophy, as for their courage and conduct in the day of battle, and even the impetuous Macedonian, whilſt he puſhed his conqueſts beyond the Tigris and the Indus, often ſacrificed, in private, to the ſiſters of Parnaſſus.

But the age of chivalry was not the age of ſcience; the bulk of the people either lived in ſervile villenage, or in a precarious dependence. Liberty, that handmaid of the muſes, was a ſtranger to them, and never bleſſed them with her enlivening ſmiles. The nobles were proud, domineering, and intractable, and deſpiſed every ſcience, but that of arms. Each haughty baron, when they were aſſembled to debate, wiſhed to prove the ſtrength of his arguments, by the goodneſs of his ſword, rather, than by the force of his elocution. Their headſtrong courage, however, was refined by notions of the moſt romantick honor, and their ferocity was abated by their reſpectful attention to the ſofter ſex. In the days of Bayard, the ſun of ſcience had emerged

emerged from a long night of ignorance and obſcurity, but its influence was extended only to a few, whilſt the reſt of mankind enjoyed no more than the feeble rays of a doubtful twilight.—But to return from this digreſſion to the thread of the narrative.

It was the plan of Julius the ſecond to humble, but not to ruin the Venetians; the battle of Agnadello, he thought had ſufficiently cruſhed them; they were no longer formidable to him, and he now began to look upon the ſucceſſes of the French king, with a jealous eye. The emperor had retired into Germany, and Ferdinand of Arragon, whoſe honor was not of the niceſt kind, deſerted his former ally, and acceded to the treaty, which had been ſigned by the Pope and the Venetians. Lewis the twelfth, who had lately ſeen himſelf at the head of a formidable confederacy, was now reduced to the diſagreeable alternative, either of abandoning thoſe conqueſts, which had coſt him ſo much blood and treaſure, or of oppoſing the unit-

ed efforts of ſo many potentates. He at length adopted the moſt gallant, though perhaps, not the moſt prudent choice, without an ally of any note but the duke of Ferrara, he reſolved to ſtem the torrent, which was ruſhing down upon him. Mirandola was inveſted by the Pope in perſon, who at the age of ſeventy, ſeemed to preſerve all the vigour of youth, he conſtantly appeared in the trenches, and gave life and ſpirit to the operations of the ſiege. A great fall of ſnow having prevented the French from relieving the town, the garriſon was obliged to ſurrender to Julius.

BAYARD, as the Pope was on the road to Mirandola, had laid a ſcheme to make himſelf maſter of his perſon by ſurprize, which if it had ſucceeded, would have been a fatal ſtroke againſt the confederates, but the good fortune of the pontiff prevented it from producing the deſired effect.

JULIUS, about this time made ſeveral advantageous overtures to the duke of Ferrara,

Ferrara, which he honorably rejected, and acquired the reputation of a man of probity, by adhering to his old ally. By bribes, and promiſes, he gained ſo great an influence over the envoy of the pope, that he engaged to poiſon his maſter.

THE duke having opened the deſign to the chevalier, aſked his advice in an affair of ſo great nicety. Bayard liſtened, but horror and ſurprize were ſtrongly marked on his countenance: "Let him," ſaid he, "be inſtantly hanged up. The wretch, "who would betray his maſter, deſerves "no better fate." The duke, who felt the juſtneſs of his ſentiments, and was dazzled by the luſtre of his virtue, cried out; "Too generous Frenchman, the Pope would "not have treated you with the ſame "magnanimity."

THUS whilſt the war was carried on with various ſucceſs on both ſides, the Venetians made themſelves maſters of Breſcia by ſurprize, and preſſed the citadel with a

cloſe and vigorous ſiege; the governor having ſent an expreſs to Gaſton de Foix, the French general, that he muſt capitulate, if not relieved in eight days; that gallant prince, after having called a council of war, in which it was unanimouſly agreed, that an attempt ſhould be made to relieve the citadel, began his march the next morning at day break, with thirty thouſand men. Bayard was in the van, wrapped up in his robe de chambre, and notwithſtanding he had had a ſevere fit of the ague the night before, he now ſeemed to have got an inexhauſtible ſupply of health and ſpirits, and his courage brightened up at the approach of danger. Heroes can triumph over the infirmities of nature, whilſt the puſillanimous and weak-hearted ſink beneath imaginary evils.

Gaston de Foix, having, by the way, defeated a ſtrong detachment commanded by the Venetian general in perſon, arrived before Breſcia, and having thrown a ſupply of proviſions into the citadel, reſolved to aſſault the town itſelf. The chevalier, infirm as

as he was, placed himſelf in the moſt dangerous poſt, and beginning the attack with his uſual intrepidity, in leſs than a quarter of an hour, mounted the walls ſword in hand. A deſperate combat enſued, the air reſounded with the ſhouts of the ſoldiery, and the words, FRANCE, BAYARD, and St. MARK, echoed from every ſide. As the chevalier was charging at the head of his company, he received a dangerous wound of a pike in the thigh; and the loſs of blood conſpiring with his worn-out conſtitution, ſoon overcame him, and being unable to ſuſtain himſelf any longer, he ſunk into the arms of two of his archers, who removed him from the heat of the engagement.

A CAPTAIN MOLART, his near relation, ſeeing him all covered with blood, expreſſed the moſt lively ſorrow. "Puſh on, Sir," ſaid the generous chevalier, looking on him with a ſteady and undaunted eye, "the "town is ours; put the finiſhing ſtroke to the "victory, which is now obtained—I cannot "follow you—the period of my life is at a "cloſe."

"cloſe." Theſe words, and as they ſuppoſed, the laſt, of their leader, whom they loved, raiſed the courage of the ſoldiery, to an height of phrenzy. They ruſhed on, heedleſs of the foreſt of ſpears, which was preſented in thick ranks before them, or of the conſtant fire, to which they were expoſed. No one was more diſtreſſed than Gaſton de Foix, when he heard that Bayard had received a mortal wound. "Let us revenge," cried he, in the overflowing of his grief, "the "death of the moſt accompliſhed captain, "that France ever ſaw." The engagement was long and obſtinate; the town, however, was taken, and given up to be pillaged by the victorious troops, who were enriched by more than nine million of livers. Bayard was the only Frenchman, who did not partake of the ſpoil.

But whilſt the town was experiencing all the horrors of deſolating war, his two archers had borne the chevalier from the hurry of the action, and one of them tearing a piece of his ſhirt, uſed it as a bandage for the wound,

wound, to ſtop the blood, which flowed in great abundance, and then lifting a door off its hinges, and having laid him on it, they carried him to an adjoining houſe, the miſtreſs of which, having concealed her two daughters on a hay-loft, came down, and opening the door, introduced the chevalier into one of her beſt apartments. Fear and diſmay were ſtrongly marked in her countenance, and ſhedding a flood of tears, ſhe embraced his knees, and in the moſt ſupplicating manner, beſought him to ſpare the life and honour, of her, and her daughters.

BAYARD, whoſe compaſſion in the hour of diſtreſs, was not inferior to his courage in the day of battle, felt her ſighs and tears to ſink into his ſoul, and being unable to raiſe her up. "Riſe, Madam," ſaid he, "and fear not; you have in your houſe a "a gentleman, who never did an injury to "any perſon, nor will he now finiſh his car-"reer of life with a diſhonourable deed. "Both you and your daughters may reſt in "full

"full ſecurity." "Archers," continued he, "guard the door, and let no perſon enter, "but by my orders. If ye are abſent from "the ſpoil, ye ſhall loſe nothing, for ye "ſerve a maſter, who will recompenſe ye "at another time."

THE pain of his wound being very intenſe, he aſked the miſtreſs of the houſe, if there was any ſkilful ſurgeon in the neighbourhood. "There is," replied ſhe, "and I myſelf, with "your permiſſion will go, and bring him," and as ſhe had no one with her, for all her ſervants had fled, ſhe took one of the archers for an eſcort.

THE ſurgeon being come, and taking out the ſplinters of the pike, which had been buried in the wound, and having probed it, pronounced it not to be mortal. The lady then came, and enquired if he had occaſion for any thing. The chevalier aſked, "where "her huſband was;" at theſe words, ſhe burſt into tears. "Ah, my lord," replied ſhe, "I know not what is become of him, whe-

"ther

"ther he is among the number of the dead, "or the living; he ſaid, that he would take "refuge in ſome religious houſe, but per- "haps he has been maſſacred in this hurry "and confuſion." The violence of her ſorrow now ſtopped her utterance, and ſighs and tears ſpoke the reſt. Bayard ſent his gentleman, and the two archers to ſearch for him; who having found him, brought him to their maſter. The trembling Italian was going to throw himſelf on his knees, when Bayard ſtopped him, "Fear nothing, Sir," ſaid he, "you lodge an officer in your houſe, "of whom you ſhall have no reaſon to com- "plain, and as to your wife, and daughters, "reſt aſſured, that they ſhall be protected from "every inſult." Words cannot expreſs the joy of this family, to ſee themſelves ſecured from the tempeſt, which raged around. The whole town was nothing but a continued ſcene of carnage and deſolation. The ſtreets ſwam in blood, and heaps of ſlain choaked up every paſſage. They bleſſed heaven a thouſand times for their good fortune, which had ſent them a protector, ſo generous and ſo humane,

humane, and who ſeemed to have come into their houſe, to be their defender: But they formed ſtill a more advantageous idea of his merit, when they ſaw Gaſton de Foix, accompanied by the principal officers of the army, come to pay him a viſit.

"Be ſpeedy in your cure, monſieur che-
"valier," ſaid Gaſton, "it will be a ſignal
"pleaſure to all your friends, and particu-
"larly to me, who am happy to rank myſelf
"among the number." He preſented a purſe of five hundred crowns to Bayard, who generouſly divided it between the archers, who had attended him the whole time. Gaſton ſent him ſeveral other preſents, and viſited him once or twice every day, whilſt he remained at Breſcia. The morning, that he left it, he informed him of the directions, which he had received from the king, to come as ſoon as poſſible, to a deciſive engagement. "And monſieur chevalier," continued he, "you muſt be with us, for
"all our operations would be incomplete
"without you." Bayard replied, "that he
"would

" would obey the commands of his highneſs, " and would undoubtedly be preſent at the " action; that if he was not able to go on " horſe-back, he would be carried there in " a litter." Gaſton fully ſatisfied with the promiſe of the chevalier, marched from Breſcia, and ſat down before Ravenna; as he knew that the confederates would at all events endeavour to raiſe the ſiege.

BAYARD remained at Breſcia ſeveral days, behaving with that courtly civility, which was peculiar to himſelf, but having at length received an expreſs from Gaſton de Foix to join the army, which was on the eve of a deciſive battle, he prepared for his departure. His hoſteſs, who had, moſt ſenſibly experienced the effects of his humanity, preſented him with a purſe of two thouſand five hundred ducats, requeſting that he would accept of it as an inconſiderable acknowledgment of the many great obligations, he had conferred on her, but it was generouſly declined by the Chevalier. She, however, ſuppoſing that he thought the ſum too

too ſmall, began to apoligize for it. "You miſtake me," madam, ſaid he, had you millions of untold gold; I would not touch the ſmalleſt part;" but ſhe ſtill perſiſting in her ſuit, he accepted her preſent, but with this proviſo, that he ſhould diſpoſe of it as he might think fit. Having with the permiſſion of the mother, paid a viſit to her daughters, he divided a purſe of two thouſand ducats between them, but in ſo polite a manner, that the gift could give no offence. He then deſired their mother to diſtribute the remaining five hundred ducats, amongſt the families, who had ſuffered moſt in the devaſtation of the city. The only thing that he would accept, were two little bracelets, which the young ladies had wrought with their own hands. "Theſe, I will take," ſaid the chevalier, "for the love, I bear the "fair artificers, and as a teſtimony of the "grateful remembrance, I ſhall ever retain "of the many obligations they have con-"ferred on me." Then mounting his horſe, he bid them the laſt adieu, and ſet out, attended by their prayers and tears. It is

with

with reluctance, that we quit thoſe pleaſing ſcenes, which do ſo much honour to human nature, and paint in more amiable colours, the gallant ſoldier, and refined gentleman, than the moſt impetuous courage, which can be diſplayed amidſt the ſack of cities, or the ſhock of encountring armies.

The famous battle of Ravenna, was a new æra to the glory of the French arms. Gaſton de Foix, though he loſt his life, acquired an immortal reputation. After he had ſat down before Ravenna, the confederate army, led by the duke of Cardonna, advanced to raiſe the ſiege. The French having made an ineffectual aſſault on the town, it was the opinion of a council of war, that a general action muſt enſue, as a retreat was neither ſafe, nor honourable. The French general made all his diſpoſitions, before the engagement with the prudence of an experienced captain, and then fought with all the bravery of a young officer. He died combating in the field of battle, covered with

honour, and with wounds, and as he was univerſally beloved, his death, in a great meaſure, damped that joy, which, conqueſt naturally inſpires. The victory, though bloody, was complete. Above fourteen thouſand of the confederates were killed. The French artillery made ſuch dreadful execution amongſt their cavalry, that an officer was heard to cry out, "Somos muertos del cielo, "vamos a pelear con los hombres." We are killed from heaven, let us go fight with mortals. Among the priſoners, were the cardinal of Medicis, the Pope's legate; Fabricius Colonna, the marquis of Peſcara, Don John of Cardonna, a near relation to the Spaniſh general, Don Pedro of Navarre, and ſeveral other perſons of diſtinction. Above three thouſand French, beſide their general, were left dead on the field. Bayard on that ſignal day, acted not unworthy of his former fame, for he eminently contributed towards the victory, both by his counſel and his ſword.

THE French army, irritated by the loſs of their general, made a ſecond attack upon Ravenna, and carried it by aſſault; there they committed every ſpecies of enormity, and acted in a manner ſo highly diſhonourable to a polite and civilized nation, that a captain Jaquin, who was ſaid to have been the author of thoſe exceſſes, was hanged up by the order of La Paliſſe, who ſucceeded to the chief command, after the death of the brave Gaſton de Foix.

SOME time before the battle of Ravenna, Gaſton de Foix being at Carpi, conſulted a celebrated aſtrologer of that town, whether an engagement would ſoon enſue between the French and Spaniſh armies, and whether he ſhould be killed in the action. The aſtrologer having examined the lines of the palm of his hand, replied, "That a battle "would be fought on Good-friday or Eaſter-"ſunday; that the French would conquer, "but that the victory would be purchaſed "at a very dear price." As to the fate of the general, he did not chuſe to declare his ſentiments,

ſentiments, but calling La Paliſſe, and Bayard, who ſeemed to be his favourites, told them, "That if he was preſent at the battle, he muſt inevitably be killed."

After that, ſeveral other officers enquired, if they were to be killed alſo; he told them, "they were not to fall there, but in "other engagements." Bayard alone was not inquiſitive about his after fate, looking about him with a ſmile of indifference and neglect. "Chevalier," ſaid Gaſton de Foix to him, "ſince you entertain yourſelf at the "expence of others, you too muſt conſult "the aſtrologer." "My prince," replied the chevalier, "as I have no faith in his pre-"dictions, I will have no recourſe to his "knowledge." But Gaſton perſiſting in his requeſt, he gave his hand to the aſtrologer, aſking him in a jocoſe manner, "whe-"ther he ſhould ever amaſs great riches,— "whether he ſhould obtain high poſts of ho-"nour, and whether he was to fall in the "battle, which he had mentioned." "Rich-"es," replied the fortune-teller, "you will "never

" never have, for your heart is not ſet upon
" them: as to honour, there is no Frenchman,
" who ſhall receive it in a more plentiful
" meaſure.—You will ſerve a king, after
" him, whom you now obey, who will both
" love and eſteem you, but ſhall not raiſe
" you to the employments, which are due
" to your merit, for he ſhall be prevented
" by thoſe, who will look upon your glory
" with an evil eye. You ſhall eſcape that
" bloody day, of which I have ſpoken, but
" in twelve years after, you will be killed;
" and I prophecy alſo to you, that if you
" are not ſlain by a cannon, piſtol, or muſ-
" quet ſhot, you will live many years
" more."

THE * author from whom I have taken this paſſage, very gravely tells us, that all theſe predictions were accompliſhed in their due time, for Gaſton de Foix was killed at the battle of Ravenna, and Bayard in

* Vie du chevalier Bayard, par Monſ. Aimar.

twelve years after, at the retreat of Biagraſſo.

* On the morning of the battle of Ravenna, the ſun appearing unuſually red, Hauburdin, one of Gaſton de Foix's gentlemen, ſaid to him, "This planet, my prince, ſeems to "portend the death of ſome illuſtrious per-"ſonage, either of you, or the duke of "Cardonna." Gaſton ſmiled, but ſaid nothing. From theſe two paſſages, we may ſee by what ſlow ſteps the human mind emerged from that cloud of ignorance and ſuperſtition, which had obſcured it during the middle centuries, its refinements were but gradual, neither was true philoſophy cordially received at her firſt appearance, till men habituated to her inſtructions, began to know their value.

The victory at Ravenna was attended with no advantageous conſequences to the

* Vie du chevalier Bayard, par Monſieur Aimar.

French

French king, for his troops being defeated by the Swiſs at Novaro, he found himſelf unable to keep the conqueſts, which had been made, and the army ſoon after returned into France, nothing having been gained by the war, but a barren and fleeting glory.—Bayard, by the way, called to ſee his uncle the good biſhop of Grenoble, who had ſuperintended the education of his youth, with ſo much care. A gleam of joy brightened up the countenance of the venerable old man, to ſee once more before his death, a nephew, who had been ſo dear to him, and whoſe actions had reflected ſo much luſtre upon his family. Here, Bayard was ſeized with a dangerous fever, which laſted ſeveral days, and his life was more than once deſpaired of, but at length, whether by an effort of nature, or the ſkill of his phyſicians, he recovered.

Soon after, that the chevalier was reinſtated in his health, he was ſent along with La Paliſſe into Navarre, to replace John d'Albret the exiled king upon the

throne, from which he had been driven by Ferdinand the catholick. The event, however was by no means anſwerable to the reputation of the generals. John, a weak and indolent prince, being amuſed by the ſecret intrigues and negociations of the Spaniſh court; often protracted the operations of the war, and even at times wore the ſemblance of a doubtful ally. The ſiege of Pampeluna was raiſed, and the French troops returned home.

FLANDERS was the next ſcene, where the proweſs of the chevalier was to be exerciſed. Henry the eighth of England, full of that ambition, which is natural to a youthful mind, when fluſhed by proſperity, was impatient to ſignalize his arms by ſome ſplendid enterprize, and to regain that influence, which his anceſtors once had upon the continent: ſoothed by the flattery of his courtiers, he fondly dreamed to recover thoſe fair provinces, which had been poſſeſſed by the Henrys and the Edwards.— To enſure the ſucceſs of this favorite ſcheme, he

he entered into an alliance with the emperor Maximilian, who proud of ſuch a puiſſant ally, paid him every homage, that the height of vanity could expect. He took pay from Henry, received his commands with the moſt implicit obedience, and in the exceſs of his complaiſance, ſeemed to forget the dignity of an emperor. But princes, like other perſons, can ſtoop to acts of meanneſs, to ſerve their private ends. The Engliſh monarch, who was fond of magnificence and parade, introduced into his camp, all the luxuries of a court, ſoftening the rough aſpect of war with thoſe feſtive ſcenes of joy, which are calculated for peaceful and tranquil times.

MAXIMILIAN and Henry having ſet down before Terouenne; Ponderini, and Teligni, who commanded there, ſent an expreſs to the French king, informing him, that the town, if not ſoon relieved, muſt ſurrender; Lewis, who wiſhed not to loſe a fortreſs of ſo much importance, gave poſitive orders to his generals, to hazard every

every thing for the relief of the place: His directions were but ill obeyed: a body of cavalry being detached towards Terouenne, was was commanded not to come to an engagement, but to retire, if they ſhould be attacked. They met the enemy near Guinegate, and to the diſhonour of the French, they uſed their ſpurs that day more than their ſwords. And it is for this reaſon, that the battle, or rather flight of Guinegate, has been called by ſome hiſtorians, the battle of the ſpurs. *

Bayard with a few of the nobleſſe, whoſe courage exempted them from fear, and whoſe rank hindered them from ſaving themſelves by an ignoble flight, faced about, and combated their adverſaries with uncommon

* Guinegate had been before unfortunate to the French arms, for they received a defeat near it, in one thouſand four hundred and ſeventy nine, from the emperor Maximilian, when he was only king of the Romans, and ſhortly after his marriage with Mary of Burgundy.

valour,

valour. The chevalier having reached a bridge, poſted himſelf there, and ſingly ſuſtained the attack: For a time, the fortune of the day ſeemed to be ſuſpended on his lance, till the enemy, having found a ford at ſome diſtance from the bridge, croſſed the river, and ſurrounded him on every ſide. Perceiving a gentleman, at ſome diſtance, who had diſmounted from his horſe, to enjoy the benefit of the breeze, beneath a large, and ſpreading oak, he galloped up to him, ſword in hand, and made him his priſoner, but finding, that to eſcape being taken, was impoſſible, he ſaid to the gentleman, "You were my priſoner, Sir, but for the "preſent, I ſhall be yours. Here is my "ſword, but ſhould the Engliſh attack me, "you muſt promiſe to return it to me, upon "your word of honour." The gentleman promiſed,—the Engliſh troops coming up, were deſirous to make him their priſoner, but he reſuming his ſword, defended himſelf ſo well, that their hardieſt knights dared not to come within the length of his faulchion. At the ſame time, ſome officers arriving

on

on the ſpot, it was left to their deciſion, whoſe property the priſoner ſhould be, and they determined in favour of the gentleman, to whom he had given up his ſword. The chevalier followed him to the camp, where he remained ſome days; being then deſirous to depart, he aſked permiſſion of the gentleman, who told him that he might go, as ſoon as he had paid his ranſom. "Then "Sir," replied the chevalier, "your ranſom "muſt be paid firſt, and you will be of my "opinion, when you conſider, that if I was "your priſoner, you have been mine alſo; "on that account, therefore, we owe no-"thing to each other—but if we cannot agree "upon this point, let us leave it to the de-"ciſion of the officers." The emperor Maximilian determined ſoon after, in favour of Bayard.

As ſoon as it was known that the chevalier was among the priſoners, both Maximilian and Henry deſired to ſee him, the former, becauſe he had perſonally known him in Italy, and the latter, becauſe he wiſhed to behold a cap-

a captain, whoſe reputation was ſo illuſtrious over all Europe. Henry made him ſeveral advantageous offers to engage him in his ſervice; but Bayard, who was attached to his country, with all the fondneſs of a lover, declined his propoſals, preferring an honourable, though not a lucrative poſt, under his own ſovereign, before a princely ſtipend from the hand of a foreign maſter. At the cloſe of the campaign, he was permitted to depart ranſom free; he then went to Paris, where he remained till the demiſe of Lewis XII. who died on the firſt of January, one thouſand five hundred and fifteen, ſoon after his marriage with Mary, who was ſiſter to Henry VIII.

THE

THE HISTORY OF THE CHEVALIER BAYARD.

BOOK III.

THE fame of the chevalier Bayard, like the ſun, preſented a fair morning in the reign of Charles the eighth, but did not arrive at its meridian ſplendor, till the time of his ſucceſſor: under Francis the firſt, it ſhone out in a glorious evening, but with this difference, that whilſt its magnitude was encreaſed, the keenneſs of its luſtre remained the ſame.

LEWIS the twelfth dying without male-iſſue, his ſon-in-law Francis the firſt, ſir-named

named the father of letters, mounted the throne, and inherited together with his crown, the ſame paſſion for Italian conqueſts. Having levied a powerful army, and left his mother Louiſa of Savoy regent of the kingdom, he advanced towards the Alps, with an intention to penetrate into Italy by the way of Piedmont. Here he was informed that the Swiſs had ſeized all the paſſes in the mountains, and were determined to obſtruct his march.

THIS intelligence was very mortifying to Francis: it was diſhonorable to retreat, and yet it was impracticable to advance. He was at length extricated from this difficulty, by a mountaineer, who conducted him by another road almoſt as eaſy of acceſs, as thoſe, which were commonly known, and which he had diſcovered, when he had been in thoſe wild and frightful mountains in queſt of hawks, which he trained up, and afterwards ſold to perſons of diſtinction.

THE

The French army paſſed the Alps with ſo much ſecrecy, that it was enabled to ſend privately a ſtrong detachment of cavalry to the chevalier Bayard, who had been commanded into Italy ſome time before; and with this reinforcement, he had the good fortune to ſurprize Proſper Colonna at Villa Franceſe. The Italian being much ſtronger in cavalry than the chevalier, boaſted that he would take him like a bird in a cage, but the event was by no means anſwerable to his expectations. His adverſary, bold in his ſchemes, and indefatigable in the execution of them, being joined by the regiments of la Paliſſe, d'Aubigny, and Humbercour, made a forced march to Villa Franceſe, and took Colonna, and his party priſoners: The town was pillaged by the ſoldiers, who found a very conſiderable booty, Colonna alone loſt above fifty thouſand crowns.

At this time, more than one courier was diſpatched to Francis, by Bayard and other officers, requeſting his permiſſion, to attack ſeveral

ſeveral bodies of Swiſs troops, which were advancing towards the Milaneſe, to reinforce their army, in that country. But he, too ambitious of military renown, to wiſh that his generals ſhould conquer in his abſence, deſired them to decline an engagement, till the remainder of his forces ſhould come up.

THE Milaneſe was again to be the theatre of war: the Swiſs ſpirited up by the intrigues of the cardinal of Sion their countryman, reſolved to break the truce, to which they had agreed, through the mediation of the duke of Savoy: the French army had already advanced towards Marignano within three leagues of the city of Milan, when they, confident in their national bravery, and the number of their troops, which amounted to five and forty thouſand ſtrong, determined to attack Francis in his camp. Being informed that the military cheſt was arrived, the impetuoſity of their valour was inflamed to its utmoſt height, by avarice, and they thought by one

one deciſive blow, to make themſelves maſters both of the king's perſon, and his treaſure.

THEY appeared about five in the evening drawn up in battle array, and began the engagement with a bold and deſperate courage: as they had no cavalry, their principal effort was to ſeize the French batteries, that they might turn their own cannon againſt them, but their deſign did not ſucceed, for the artillery played with ſuch ſucceſs upon their battalions, that a dreadful carnage enſued, and a body of cavalry having taken them in flank, gave time to the Lanſquenets to rally, who had been thrown into diſorder at the firſt onſet. The heat of the battle now began: the black bands, who were deemed to be the beſt infantry in Europe, were now led on to oppoſe the Swiſs, and it was fought on both ſides with the utmoſt bravery: the duke of Guiſe having received two and twenty wounds, fell at length upon a heap of ſlain, and was with much difficulty carried

carried out of the field. The Swiſs unable to drive the French from their batteries, attacked the quarter, where the king commanded in perſon: in a moment all the fury of the combat raged there: Bayard had his horſe killed under him, and having mounted another, returned to the battle, and ruſhed into the thickeſt battalions of the enemy: his horſe now received many wounds, and having broken his reins, ran away with his rider, who muſt have been taken priſoner, had he not eſcaped by an unexpected ſtroke of fortune: a ſtrong encloſure having ſtopped his horſe, he diſmounted, and throwing away his arms, crept along a ditch, and ſo joined his own party, without being perceived by his adverſaries. The duke of Lorrain, mounted him upon another horſe, which Bayard had beſtowed him ſome time before. This ſteed was called Carman, and had been highly prized by the chevalier, who rode him at the battle of Ravenna, where he received ſo many wounds, that his life was deſpaired of.

Two

Two very remarkable anecdotes are told us of this famous courſer. The one, that all the time he was under the hand of the farrier, he did not ſhew the leaſt ſign of pain: the other, that in the day of battle, he fought with as much courage and dexterity as his rider. Happy times, when the ſteed of the knight errant, had all the prudence, without the follies of his maſter! Upon this admirable horſe, the chevalier once more ruſhed againſt the foe, performing deeds of uncommon proweſs; but the night now grew ſo dark, that the combatants being unable to diſtinguiſh each other, deſiſted until morning.

The king having atchieved wonders in the field, ſlept that night upon the carriage of a cannon; being almoſt worn out with fatigue. The next day the Swiſs continued the engagement with the ſame unremitting obſtinacy: they again attempted to maſter the French batteries, but were again repulſed. Francis, Bayard, and the duke of

Bourbon diſtinguiſhed themſelves in a moſt extraordinary manner, expoſing their perſons to every danger like the meaneſt centinel. Roſt the Swiſs general, as his laſt expedient, made an attack upon the rear of the French; but here too, his deſign miſcarried, ſo that after many deſperate and unſucceſsful efforts, he retreated to Milan with his ſhattered army.

SUCH was the battle of Marignano, famous for its length, and for the valor of the combatants: above fourteen thouſand Swiſs were killed, and about four thouſand French, amongſt whom were many perſons of diſtinction. The Swiſs fought with pikes above eighteen feet long, and large two handled ſwords, with which, they always clove the ſkull of their adverſary at a ſingle blow.—The battle of Marignano was emphatically called by old Trivulci, the battle of the giants.

BUT there was no event in his whole life, that reflected more luſtre upon the chevalier, than

than, that it pleaſed his ſovereign to receive the order of knighthood upon the field of battle, from his honor-giving hand *. Francis in the preſence of all his officers, after having enumerated the many glorious exploits, which Bayard had performed, "Therefore," ſaid he, "by his hand I will "be knighted: let no perſon envy him "that diſtinction, ſince there is no one ſo "worthy of it as he." But Bayard, who was modeſt, even to a fault, ſeeing himſelf preferred to ſo many princes and great captains, wiſhed to excuſe himſelf to the king, as being unworthy of ſo great an honour. His remonſtrances, however, were to no purpoſe: "I have weighed the matter "in my mind," replied Francis, "and I "will be obeyed." He then kneeled down; Bayard firſt took off his own belt, and buckled it round the king, then drawing his ſword out of the ſcabbard, he put it into his hands, and after having obſerved all the punctilios, which belong to that

* By the honor-giving hand
Of Cœur de Lion, knighted in the field.
SHAKESPEAR.

whimſical and romantic inſtitution, he gave him the *accolade*; then taking again his own ſword from the king, and holding it naked in his hand, he apoſtrophized to it in the following words. "How glorious have "you been, to have aſſiſted at the knighting "of the greateſt monarch in the world! For "the future I ſhall look upon you as a con-"ſecrated relick, and ſhall never uſe you, but "againſt the enemies of the church." The duke of Savoy, after the death of the chevalier, made a ſtrict enquiry for this celebrated ſword, as he wiſhed to place it amongſt the curioſities of his cabinet, but it could not be found.

His defence of Mezieres, againſt the united forces of the empire, augmented ſtill more the reputation of his name, and placed the glory of the French arms, in the moſt conſpicuous point of view. Charles the fifth, upon the death of his grandfather Maximilian, having ſucceeded to the imperial crown, became maſter of more extenſive territories, than any prince had poſſeſſed, ſince the days of Charlemagne; but his ambition was ſtill unſatisfied: immenſe ſchemes of grandeur

grandeur were conſtantly rolling in his thoughts, and there are hiſtorians, who tell us, that he had formed a plan of ſubjugating all Europe to the dominion of the houſe of Auſtria. As Francis the firſt was his moſt formidable rival, both from intereſt and inclination, he levied ſeveral puiſſant armies to attack him on every ſide. Seckingen, and the count of Naſſau his generals, having penetrated into Champagne, ſoon made themſelves maſters of Mozon, and advanced towards Mezieres. As the fortifications of the laſt mentioned place were of conſiderable extent, and but in a very bad condition, it was the opinion of a council of war, that it was not tenable. Bayard was alone diſſentient. "There is no place," ſaid he, "untenable, when it is defended by the "brave, and if the king ſhall think fit to "entruſt me with the command there, I "ſhall endeavour to make good my aſſertion." ——Francis, who paid the utmoſt deference to his opinion, complied with his requeſt, and he ſet out for Mezieres, accompanied by a ſplendid train of the young nobility,

nobility, who wiſhed to be inſtructed in the art of war under ſo experienced a captain.

THE count of Naſſau, at length, arriving before the town, ſent a trumpet to the chevalier, which ſummoned him to ſurrender upon honorable terms; but he anſwered, "That he would defend the charge, which "had been committed to his care, whilſt he "had a ſword by his ſide, and a hand to "draw it out of the ſcabbard." The ſiege laſted above a month, during which time, the Imperialiſts made ſeveral aſſaults, but were conſtanſtly repulſed by the valor of the defendants. A miſunderſtanding, at length, happened between Seckingen, and the count of Naſſau, which was brought about by the contrivance of Bayard, after the following manner.

THE chevalier wrote a letter to Robert de la Marck, lord of Sedan, requeſting that he would as ſoon as poſſible, learn from his couſin the count of Naſſau, whether he ſtill perſiſted in his reſolution of leaving the emperor

emperor, and going over to the king: that it was neceſſary he ſhould be informed of it immediately, as he was to be joined the next day by two thouſand Swiſs, and eight hundred horſe, who were within three leagues of Mezieres; that he would ſally out on Seckingen, whilſt the Swiſs forced his lines; that he would not attack Naſſau, upon a ſuppoſition that he ſtill entertained the ſame favourable ſentiments as formerly, towards the French intereſt: He deſired, that he would anſwer him ſpeedily, and uſe great ſecrecy.

BAYARD gave the letter to a peaſant to carry to Sedan, which was but three leagues from Meziers; he had advanced about five hundred paces, when he was ſtopped, and brought to Seckingen, who aſked him, where he was going; he replied, with a great deal of ſimplicity, "That the great Captain of Mezieres, had ſent him with a letter to the lord of Sedan," and taking it out of a little purſe, which he had in his breaſt, delivered it to him. Seckingen having

having read the letter, began to entertain ſuſpicions about Naſſau, as Bayard had ſuppoſed. Believing himſelf to be betrayed, he quitted the poſt where he was, and joined Naſſau, who being informed of Bayard's contrivance, endeavoured, but in vain, to remove the apprehenſions of Seckingen.

THEY, now becoming jealous and diffident of each other, raiſed the ſiege, leaving Bayard the honour of having fulfilled his promiſe, and the reputation of being the ableſt officer in Europe.

SOME time after, Mary of Hungary, aſked the Count of Naſſau, "Why, with an "army of forty thouſand men, and an hun-"dred pieces of cannon, he could not take "in ſix weeks a ſmall pigeon-houſe," by which, ſhe meant Mezieres. "Becauſe, replied the Count, "it was defended by an "eagle, and his young ones, who were "more to be feared, than the eagles of the "empire."

ALL

ALL negotiations, to accommodate matters between Charles and Francis, having proved ineffectual, they both prepared to carry on the war with the utmoſt vigour. The French king ſent a ſtrong army into the Milaneſe, under the command of Lautrec, but that general, too fond of his own opinion, always neglected to attend to the advice of thoſe, who had, perhaps, more experience than himſelf, and by his perverſe obſtinacy, he often fell into errors, the bad effects of which, were ſeverely felt by his army.

HAVING ſpent the better part of the ſummer in taking a few inconſiderable places, he at laſt ſat down before Pavia. But the town being defended by a numerous garriſon, he was ſoon compelled to raiſe the ſiege, and then marched to give battle to the Spaniſh and Imperial armies, which he found moſt advantageouſly poſted near Bicocca.

THE Swiſs, having received no pay for ſome time, began to complain loudly to the general,

general, inſiſting to be led againſt the enemy, that they might enrich themſelves with the ſpoils of the vanquiſhed. At firſt, Lautrec endeavoured to ſooth them with promiſes, but they growing more importunate, he at laſt reſolved, let the event be what it would, to bring them to the attack. Bayard, Peter of Navarre, and all the old officers, proteſted againſt an attempt, which muſt be attended with ſo many dangers, repreſenting at the ſame time, the camp of the enemy as impregnable: but their advice was rejected by the general, and the fortune of the event, was anſwerable to the imprudence of the ſcheme. Above three thouſand Swiſs were killed, and the French retired in diſorder. Such was the battle of Bicocca, which cloſed an inglorious and expenſive campaign.

FRANCIS, chagrined by the ill ſucceſs of the laſt year, and deſirous to re-eſtabliſh the credit of his arms, appointed admiral Bonnivet to the command of the troops in Italy. But that general, confiding in the treacherous

treacherous councils of Viſconti, and other Italians, who wiſhed to betray the cauſe, which they ſeemed to eſpouſe, did nothing worthy of the expectations, which were conceived of him. His whole conduct was a ſeries of miſtakes. After having, in vain, attempted the reduction of Milan, he retreated to Biagraſſo, from whence he detatched Bayard to Rebecca, with two hundred horſe, and a thouſand foot. He, wiſhing to decline the command, told the general, that as the place was unfortified, it was not tenable with ſo few troops, at the ſame time, requeſting that he would appoint ſome more experienced perſon to that charge. Bonnivet perſiſted in his reſolution, promiſing, that he would ſhortly ſend a reinforcement after him. The Chevalier departed reluctantly, and with a foreboding of that, which was to happen.

The marquiſs of Peſcara, and John of Medicis, being informed of the weakneſs of the party at Rebecca, reſolved to carry it off, and they had almoſt ſucceeded in their ſcheme, having

having ſurprized the centry, who had but juſt time to give the alarm. Bayard, that day, being indiſpoſed, had taken a medecine, but hearing the claſhing of arms, he, immediately, mounted his horſe, buckled on his armour, and galloped to the aſſiſtance of the guard: meanwhile the remainder of the garriſon retired towards the camp at Biagraſſo. The Chevalier, and a few gallant officers, repulſed for a time, all the attacks of the enemy, but judging that the infantry had reached a place of ſecurity, they thought it prudent to retire, and clapping ſpurs to their horſes, rode off towards the camp. Bayard, having met the general, accuſed him of his breach of promiſe, by which, he had left him expoſed to ſo great an inſult. Bonnivet apologized to him, endeavouring to throw the blame upon his ſpies, who had not given him timely notice of the deſign. "Let us then, ſaid the chevalier, go, and attack the enemy; it will be eaſy to defeat them. But he, who was directed by Italian counſels, was of a different opinion. This incenſed the high-ſpirited chevalier, who

who put himſelf inſtantly at the head of his own company, and marched back to Rebecca, to wipe away the ſtain, which he thought his honour had received.

HERE, he ſurprized the battalion of John of Medicis, and cut off the greater part of it. It is mentioned by an hiſtorian, * that when Bayard returned to the camp, he found the edge of his ſword ſo blunted with the many ſtrokes, which he had given, "*That it had loſt the uſe, for which, it had been made.* †"

It was ſome time before this exploit, that he relieved the citadel of Cremona, which had been beſieged two and twenty months.

* Continuator of Paulus Æmilius.

† Perdidit ensis opus, frangit ſine vulnere membra. LUCAN.

Spezza e non taglia, e divenendo otuſo,
Perduto ha il brando gìa di brando, il uſo.
TASSO.

He

He found in it but eight ſoldiers, and theſe were reduced to meer ſkeletons, by famine, ſickneſs, and all the other inconveniencies, which are attendant on a long ſiege. The remainder of the garriſon, with the brave Herbeville, the governor, were dead. The chevalier having paid them that tribute, which was due to their courage, brought them away with him, after putting others in their room, and ſupplying the place with proviſions. What muſt have been the feelings of this generous ſoldier, when he had relieved the diſtreſſes of ſuch brave men!

A SCARCITY of proviſions at length compelled Bonnivet to quit his camp at Biagraſſo; a retreat, however, was both difficult and dangerous: a deep river lay before him, and a powerful army hovered on his rear. But as a retreat was to be made, he directed his march towards Romagnano, a village upon the Seſia, where he expected to be joined by ſome Swiſs troops; here too, he was diſappointed in his hopes,

hopes, for the enemy had prevented them from paſſing the river. The duke of Bourbon, who had left the ſervice of the French king, and gone over to the emperor, now commanded the marquiſs of Peſcara to fall upon the rear-guard, where the chevalier was, who ever courted the poſt of honour, and of danger. The marquis was repulſed, and D'Urbino, who made another attack, had the ſame fortune, for having marked the ſtern, and determined countenance of his adverſary, he dared not to approach, but ſkirmiſhed at a diſtance. The French army that evening paſſed the Seſia, between Romagnano and Gattinara.

The following day they reached Raviſingua, which they left about midnight, as ſoon as the moon had riſen. Bourbon, the next morning, ſtrongly preſſed Launnoy, the imperial general, to purſue the blow, and attack Bonnivet in his retreat, but he ſaid, that it would be more prudent to build a bridge of gold for a brave and deſperate foe, than to riſque the advantage, which they

they had gained, by hazarding a battle. The marquis of Peſcara, however, having come in, and being of Bourbon's opinion, it was determined, that another attempt ſhould be made to bring on an engagement. Peſcara with four thouſand horſe, and ſome battalions of infantry, once more made an attack upon the rear, but was again repulſed by Bayard. Here, Bonnivet diſabled by a wound, which he had now received in the arm, gave up the command to the chevalier, as to him, who was moſt worthy of that important truſt. Bourbon now made another deſperate effort, which was moſt gallantly ſuſtained by his adverſaries: Bayard broke in like a torrent upon his platoons of muſquiteers, making a prodigious havoc, for he always treated thoſe, who carried fire-arms, with an unſpairing hand, looking upon thoſe deſtructive engines as the bane of chivalry and true knighthood.

It was then, that, he was hit by a muſket ball, which broke his back bone. Though he perceived himſelf to be mortally wounded

ed, yet he ſtill continued to fight with his wonted intrepidity, till he could ſit on horſe-back no longer: He then deſired his gentleman to aſſiſt him to diſmount. "I am killed;" ſaid he, "O Lord have mercy on me." And whilſt he repeated theſe words, he kiſſed the guard of his ſword, which ſerved him for a crucifix. His gentleman, being alone unable to diſmount him, called to a Swiſs captain, named Dieſbach, for help; who, having been informed of the chevalier's wound, came up with ſome ſoldiers to his aſſiſtance: they placed him againſt the foot of a tree, and by his own deſire, with his face to the enemy, "For whilſt I lived," ſaid he, "I never turned my back towards any "man, nor will I do it now, when I am "dying." It was ſoon known through both armies that he was wounded, and ſeveral of his officers gathered round, to ſympathize with their general.

D'Alegre, his old friend and companion, burſt into a flood of tears, and his voice was choaked up by the exceſs of ſor-

row. "Weep not," ſaid the wounded heroe, "for I die in the bed of honor. I "have lived long enough, nor ought I to wiſh "a more diſtant day. The only thing, that "diſtreſſes me, is, that I can no longer ſerve "my prince." The enemy was now advancing, and it was with difficulty, that he could perſuade his friends to retire. The duke of Bourbon ſoon after arrived, and as he had a ſincere eſteem for Bayard, he was troubled to ſee him juſt on the verge of death. "I "am ſorry," ſaid the duke, "to ſee you in "this condition." "I am, my lord, rather "an object of envy, than of pity, ſince I "die in the ſervice of my king and country; "but it is you, ſir," continued he, "who "are an object of compaſſion, ſince you "have carried arms againſt both." Bourbon departed ſlow and penſive—the dying words of his old friend, had ſunk deep into his mind. The marquiſs of Peſcara behaved in a manner ſuitable to his rank and character, for the generous and the brave always feel for the diſtreſſes of each other. After having expreſſed his ſorrow for the chevalier, in the moſt

moſt affectionate manner, he ordered his own tent to be erected over him, and the moſt ſkilful ſurgeons to be ſent for; and, in the mean time, Bayard confeſſed to his valet de chambre, as there was no prieſt at hand.

THE ſurgeons now arrived, but all their endeavours were ineffectual. He expired ſoon after, at ſix o'clock in the evening, on the laſt of April, fifteen hundred and twenty-four, in the fifty-fifth year of his age, regretted both by his friends, and by his enemies *.

IT is with a kind of gloomy pleaſure, that we dwell upon the laſt moments of illuſtrious perſonages; every word that they utter, has then its full weight, for we are ſoon to loſe them for ever.

FRANCIS the firſt, ſhewed the moſt live-

* It will be needleſs to remind the reader of taſte, of the fine painting of Bayard's death, by Weſt.

ly grief, when he was informed of his fate, and mourned for him with all the affection of a brother *. After the deciſive battle of Pavia, he was often heard to ſay, "O that "Bayard had been there!" but the chevalier was then no more. The generous Peſcara cauſed his body to be embalmed, and to be carried by ſix gentlemen, in proceſſion, to a neighbouring church, where for two days, it received all military honors, and then, it was given to his domeſtics to be depoſited in the tomb of his anceſtors.

As his remains were to paſs through the territories of the duke of Savoy, that prince ordered, that they ſhould be received with every mark of diſtinction: But when they reached the frontiers of Dauphiny, his na-

* Or bled ſome friend? who bore a brother's part,
And claim'd, by merit, not by blood, the heart.
POPE's Odyſſey.

tive

tive country, there was nothing to be ſeen, but the moſt ſincere and unaffected ſorrow, it ſtreamed from every eye, and ſwelled in every boſom. All ranks of men haſtened to meet the corſe of their much-loved and much-reſpected countryman, and with ſighs, and tears paid the laſt ſad honors to his exalted virtue.

When Henry the fourth paſſed by Grenoble, in the year ſixteen hundred, he ſaid that he would erect a ſuperb monument to the memory of the chevalier, but we cannot, at this diſtance of time, determine, what prevented him from executing, what would have reflected ſo much honor both upon himſelf and the deceaſed.

Thus fell the chevalier Bayard, who was, doubtleſs, one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed characters of the age, in which he lived. He ſeems to have ſhed a peculiar ſplendor upon that conſtellation of heroes, which adorned the ſixteenth century, and to have been the centre, where the rays of their reſpective virtues, were collected. He had the prudence

of

of the great Gonſalvo, without his perfidy; the generous gallantry of Francis, without his temerity; and the enterprizing temper of Bourbon, without his ſpirit for revenge. All his ſchemes, he laid with the deepeſt wiſdom, and executed them with the moſt lively vigour. He was cool, and circumſpect in council, but impetuous, and deciſive in the field. Fierce and incontrolable in the day of battle, but after victory, compaſſionate and humane. As he loved a ſoldier, ſo was he always full of mercy to the vanquiſhed foe. His honor was of the moſt punctilious kind, and he adored it like a favourite miſtreſs It ſpread a luminous track of glory before him, and he purſued it with the moſt unremitting perſeverance. In the choice of his friends, he was deliberate and judicious, and ſteady and ſincere, after he had choſen. And as his piety and temperance were not inferior to his other virtues, ſo did he moſt juſtly deſerve the ſirname of the *Good Chevalier, without fear, and without reproach.*

The following anecdote, will perhaps, reflect more honor upon his memory, and make

make his name flouriſh to poſterity, with a more unfading bloom, than all the battles, that he won, or all the ſingle combats that, he fought.

One night, he found in his room, a handſome young woman, who had been brought there by her mother, for the worſt of purpoſes. She was bathed in tears, and her cheeks were covered with honeſt bluſhes. Bayard deſired to know the cauſe of her affliction. "Ah, Sir," ſaid ſhe, "my mother, "compelled by extreme poverty, hath ob- "liged me to do that, which covers me with "ſhame and confuſion." "Unhappy wo- "man," ſaid the chevalier, "What a crime "was ſhe going to commit! But fear no- "thing, my fair one, dry up your tears, for "you are under the protection of one, who "will do no injury to your honor." Then wrapping her up in his cloak, that ſhe might not be known, he conducted her to a neighbouring houſe, there to paſs the remainder of the night. The next morning, he ſent for her mother, and reproved her for her evil conduct,

conduct. The unfortuate woman, conſcious of her guilt, burſt into tears, alledging, that her poverty had made her do an action, which her ſoul abhorred. The chevalier was melted into compaſſion; he then enquired, if an huſband could be got for her daughter. "Many might be had," ſaid ſhe, "but they "have aſked along with her five hundred flo-"rins." He, immediately, ſent the mother to conclude the marriage, generouſly paying the dowry of the bride, out of his own purſe. It would have been unpardonable to have omitted an inſtance of ſuch virtue, and humanity.

It may ſeem extraordinary, that he, who poſſeſſed all the qualities of a great general, in ſo eminent a degree, ſhould never attain to the ſupreme command. But his openneſs and candor were not calculated for the chicane of a court; nor would that noble courage, which made him invincible in the day of battle, ſuffer him to cringe before thoſe upſtart minions, who baſked in the ſunſhine of royal favour.

THIS great character ſeems to have been darkened but by few blemiſhes; to delight in the wild havoc of war, to exult in ſcenes of continued ſlaughter, and to have maſs celebrated before the combat, as if the miniſters of religion could ſanctify the ſhedding of human blood; theſe, I ſay, are not ſo much the faults of the man, as the follies of the age: His virtues were many and illuſtrious, his failings few, and ſuch as are incidental to human nature; in him the gallant pride of old nobility was blended with the poliſhed eaſe of the accompliſhed cavalier, and the brighteſt courage was wedded to the moſt flowing courteſy.—Honor and reſpect have followed him beyond the tomb; his memory is ſtill venerated over Europe, and his name is pronounced with reverence, by all the ſons of honorable war.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 2 line 11 Read Charles the Vth of France
—— 8 — 8 for while read whilſt
—— 9 — 10 for have read having
—— 10 — 3 for among read amongſt
—— 13 — 13 for tou[illegible]nt read tour[illegible]
—— 20 — 8 for am[illegible]ad amidſt
—— 34 — 2 for among read amongſt
—— 34 — 7 for among read amongſt
—— 40 — 5 for among read amongſt
—— 40 — 7 of the note, for St. Giles's read St. Giles
—— 44 — 10 for ducheſs read dutcheſs
—— 47 — 8 for among read amongſt
—— [illegible] — 15 for amid read amidſt
—— 55 — 9 for ſtruck of the plume off his adverſary's helmet, read ſtruck the plume from the helmet of his adverſary,
—— 62 — 12 for a couſin germ[illegible] of Bayard's, read a couſin german to Bayard
—— 63 — 14 for among read amongſt
—— 64 — 5 for Bayardo read Baiardo
—— 69 — 14 for Sforza's read Sforza
—— 79 — 25 Eſpana read Elpana
—— 117 — 17 for ſet read ſat

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